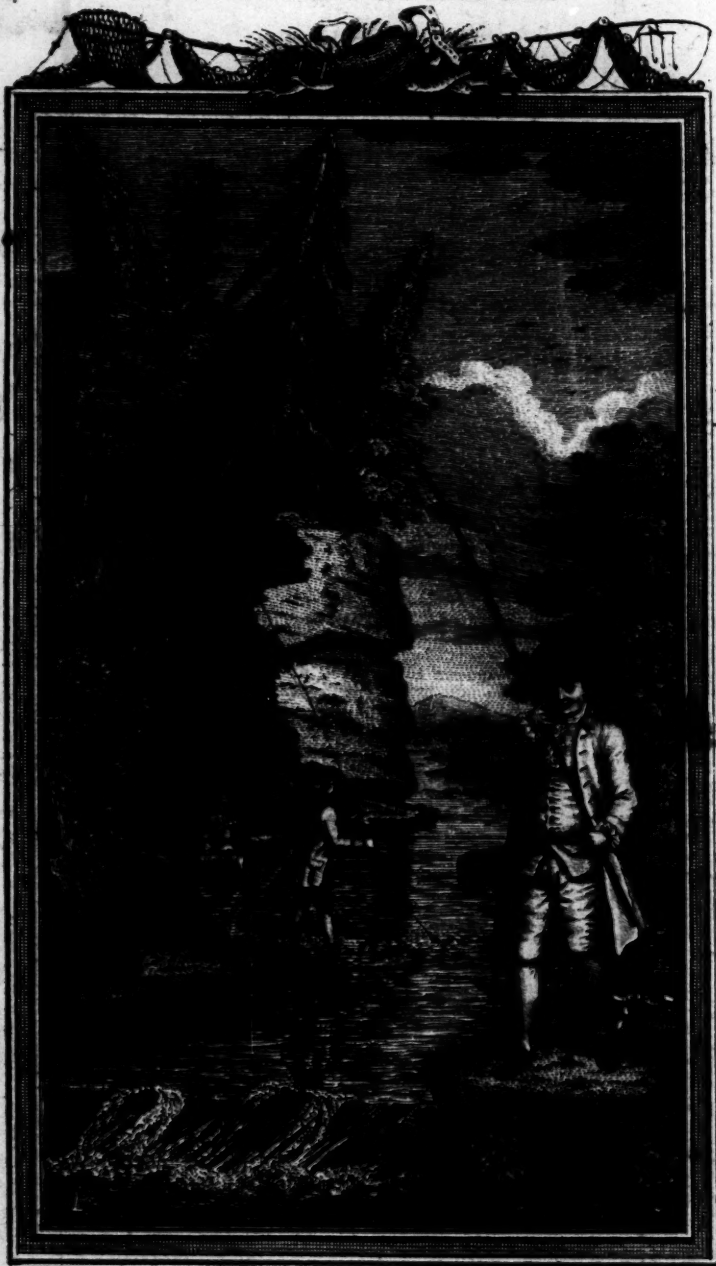
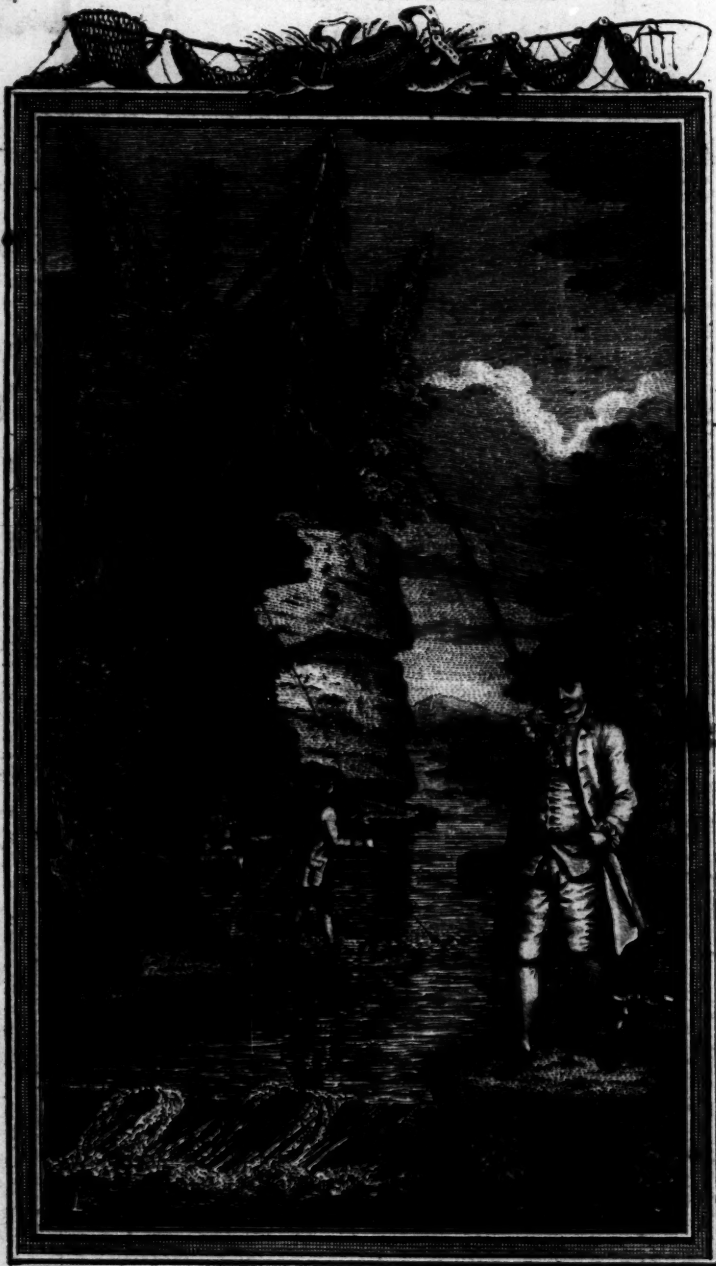


# FRONTISPIECE.



*Published as the Act directs, 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1778,  
By Fielding & Walker, Paternoster Row, London.*

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*J. Y. Rudge*

THE  
**Complete Fisherman;**  
OR,  
**UNIVERSAL ANGLER:**

CONTAINING  
Full Directions for taking all Kinds of River Fish.

PARTICULARLY THE

TROUT,  
PIKE,  
CARP,  
TENCH,  
PERCH,  
CHUB,  
ROACH,

BARBEL,  
DACE,  
GUDGEON,  
BREAM,  
GRAYLING,  
EEL,

LAMPREY,  
MULLET,  
SALMON,  
BLEAK,  
SALMON TROUT,  
SMELT, &c. &c.

To which is added

The **WHOLE ART of FLY-FISHING;**

With ample Instructions how to make the various  
**ARTIFICIAL FLIES** proper for Use in every Month  
of the Year.

LIKEWISE

A Compendious Account of the principal **SEA-FISH;**  
their **NATURE, QUALITIES,** and the **METHOD OF**  
**CATCHING THEM, &c.**

And to the Whole are prefixed

**GENERAL REMARKS and OBSERVATIONS,**  
Proper to be attended to by all **FISHERMEN.**

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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*Delightful is the Angler's life,  
Free from toil, and free from strife;  
On flowery banks he spends the day,  
Each passing month as sweet as May.*

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Printed for FIELDING and WALKER, in Pater-noster-Row.

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## GENERAL

### Remarks and Observations,

Proper to be attended to by all

## FISHERMEN.

**P**ATIENCE is one of the first requisites for a fisherman; as it frequently happens that he must exercise this virtue a whole day, without having any sport.

During all the winter months, and in March, the beginning of April, and September, if the sun shines, the air be clear, and there is no wind, fish bite best in the middle of the day.

From the middle of April to the end of August, the best hours to angle, in fine weather and clear water, are from sun-rise till ten o'clock, and from three till sun-set. In cloudy weather, with any wind except the easterly, you may catch fish all day. In a muddy stream you may likewise angle at all hours, from April to August, though mornings and evenings are the properest times. Fish in general bite best in rapid, stony, and gravelly rivers; and better in summer than in winter. Fish bite well when they come into sandy fords to rub themselves, a little before they spawn.

Anglers must be careful to keep out of the sight of the fish, by standing far from the bank: but muddy water renders this caution unnecessary. — Fish only in waters that are common, except you obtain permission of the owner. It is proper to angle at ground, when the filth washed down by rain from the higher grounds is carried away by floods, and the river appears of a brown, chesnut, or ale-colour. You may angle at ground with a fly, after, or during a moderate shower.

After dark, cloudy, windy nights, or when the moon shines but little, you must not expect much sport the following day, except for small fish, for then trout and other large fish range in search of prey. Angling is pursued with most success from the beginning of May, to the beginning of September. Writers on this subject have directed that anglers should wear dark-coloured cloaths, as the more glaring colours are apt to fright the fish.

Fish sometimes bite well at the conflux of rivers, and where the tide ebbs and flows, but usually in the ebb. The south-west, the west, and the south winds are most favourable to anglers.

To induce fish to come where you wish to angle, throw in boiled corn, worms, &c. and to keep them to the place, throw in grains of ground malt; but for salmon and trout, a composition of ground malt, blood, and clay, is the best.

When



*Remarks and Observations.*

v

When you have hooked a fish, never suffer him to run out with the line; but keep your rod bent, and as near perpendicular as you can: by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the straining of your line, for the same reason.

Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking the hair to which your hook is fastened, or indeed any part of the line, into your hand; but either put a landing-net under him, or for want of that, your hat: you may, in fly-fishing, lay hold of your line to draw a fish to you; but this must be done with caution.

Your silk for whipping hooks and other fine work, must be very small; use it double, and wax it, and indeed any other kind of binding, with shoemaker's wax, which, of all waxes, is the toughest, and holds best: if your wax be too stiff, temper it with tallow.

Enclose the knots and joints of your lines in a small pill of wax, pressed very close, and the superfluities pinched off: this will soon harden, and prevent the knots from drawing.

If, for strong fishing, you use grass, which, when you can get it fine, is to be preferred to gut, remember always to soak it about an hour in water before you use it: this will make it tough, and prevent its kinking.

Whenever you begin fishing, wet the ends of the joints of your rod; which will prevent their loosening, because it makes them swell: and if you happen, either by rain or otherwise,



to wet your rod so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrel a few times round in the flame of a candle, and they will easily separate.

Before you fix the loop of bristle to your hook, in order to make a fly, to prevent its drawing, be sure to singe the ends of it in the flame of a candle: do the same by the hair, to which at any time you may whip a hook.

Make flies in warm weather only; for in cold weather your waxed silk will not draw.

In rainy weather, or when the season for fishing is over, repair whatever dam age your tackle has sustained.

Never regard what bunglers and slovens tell you; but believe that neatness in your tackle, and a nice and curious hand in all your work, especially in fly-making, are absolutely necessary.

If at any time you happen to be over-heated with walking, or other exercise, avoid small liquors, especially water, as you would poison; and rather take a glass of rum or brandy; the instantaneous effects whereof, in cooling the body, and quenching drought, are amazing.

*The following are deemed PROPER TIMES for ANGLING.*

In calm clear weather. In a brisk south or west breeze; if you can find shelter, no matter how high it be. When in the hottest months it is cool and cloudy. After floods, when the water

water fines, and is of a whey-colour. After a hasty violent shower has a little muddied and swelled the tide; especially for ground-fishing. When a river is very much swelled, and it runs violent in any still pit, then by its sides: the mouth of any slow creek running into it, and the ends of bridges where the water runs calm and quiet, if not too deep. There is admirable sport when flashes are let down, or mills set going, if you follow the course of the water.

*The following are deemed IMPROPER TIMES or PLACES for ANGLING.*

In a strong east or cold north wind. After a long drought. In the middle of days that are excessive hot and bright, especially in muddy, or clear shallow rivers. When there has been a white frost in the morning. In days of high wind. Where they have been long washing sheep. Just after fish have spawned. Upon rising of any sudden clouds that are likely to precede rain. The days following dark, clouded, or windy nights. When rivers, especially small ones, are pent up by flood-gates, or mills, and run low.

### OF WORMS.

I. The MARSH WORM. This is of a blueish colour, and is procured from marshy ground on the banks of rivers. It is a probable bait with

with which to take gudgeon, grayling, trout, perch, bream, flounders, and salmon-smelts, in the months of March, April, and September; but it is likewise used, in preference to other baits, from Candlemas to Michaelmas.

2. The **EARTH-BOB**, or **White Grub**, is a worm with a red head, as large as two maggots, and is soft, and full of whitish guts. It is found in a light sandy soil; and when the land is first ploughed up from grazing, you may gather them in great numbers by following the plough. The crows direct where to find this worm, for in such places they follow the plough very closely. This is properly a winter-bait, and lasts from the beginning of November to the middle of April. The method of keeping them is in a vessel stopped close, with a proper quantity of the earth in which they were bred; and thus kept, they are fit for use all the winter. It is a proper bait for chub, roach, dace, bream, salmon-smelts, trout, carp, and tench.

3. The **CLAP-BAIT**, or **Bott**. This resembles a gentle, but is larger, and is found under cow-dung. It is to be sought after only on land that is light and sandy, for it is much of the same nature as the earth-bob, and may be kept in wet moss for two or three days. It is an admirable bait for a trout, but will be taken by almost any other fish.

4. The **FLAG-WORM**, or **Dock-Worm**. This is found in the roots of flags that grow on

on the brink of an old pond. Having pulled up the root, you will find, among the fibres of it, some reddish or yellowish cases. Open these with a pin, and you will find in them a small worm, longer and slenderer than a gentle, with a red head, a palish body, and rows of feet all down the belly. It is deemed an excellent bait for carp, tench, grayling, bream, roach, and dace.

5. The BRANDLING, Gilt-Tail, and Red-Worm. These are to be found in old dung-hills, or the rotten earth near them; but the best are met with in tanners yards, under the heaps of bark they throw out when it is become useless to them; but the brandling is very often found in hogs-dung. Gudgeons, perch, trout, graylings, tench, bream, salmon-smelts, or any fish that takes a worm, may be successfully fished for with these baits.

6. The TAG-TAIL is of a pale flesh-colour, with a yellow tag on his tail almost half an inch long. It is found, after a shower of rain, in marled land, or meadows, and is deemed a good bait for trout, when fished for after the water has been discoloured by rain.

7. The LOB-WORM, Dew-Worm, Garden-Worm, or Twarchel. These are but different names for the same worm, which is a good bait for salmon, trout, chub, barbel, and very large eels. They are found in gardens, and likewise in Church-yards, late on a summer-evening,



evening, by the help of a lantern. When they do not appear, through the extreme drought of the weather, they may be driven out of the ground, by pouring the juice of walnut-tree leaves, mixed with a little water and salt, into their holes.

8. The ASH-GRUB. This may be procured at any time from Michaelmas to June. It is a milk-white worm with a red-head, and is to be found under the bark of the oak, ash, alder, or birch, if they have lain a year after being cut down. It is also found under the bark of the decayed stump of a tree, and in the body of a rotten alder, if broken with an axe. It is a good bait for roach, dace, grayling; and chub.

9. The COD-BAIT, Cadis-Worm, and Straw-Worm. These are various names for the same baits, which are to be found in pits, ponds, brooks, and ditches, and are covered with husks of sticks, straw, or rushes, and stones. Those with stones or gravel husks are found only in brooks, and those with straw and rushes in ponds; but all the different sorts may be found in the same season. They are deemed good bait for trout, grayling, carp, tench, bream, chub, bleak, dace, roach, and salmon-smelts.

The cod-bait fishing commences about the ninth of May, is the earliest bait used in a morning, and may be used till noon. This bait



bait is good till the middle of June, and should be used with a hook leaded on the shank, and the cod-bait drawn on to the top of it. It will answer in deep water as well as in swift streams, by moving it up and down ten or twelve inches from the ground. If the water be clear, it is a good bottom-bait, and is greatly to be preferred to the worm, since it is taken greedily by all the pool fish.

Exclusive of those worms above-mentioned which are to be found in the earth, there are several others which breed on trees and herbs, and afterwards become flies. Of these the chief are the oak-worm, caterpillar, crabtree-worm, and palmer-worm. It is proper to keep these in small boxes to let in the air, and they must be fed with leaves of the same kind of tree on which they are found. They are good bait for roach, dace, chub, grayling, and trout.

Worms of all kinds should be well scoured in moss which has been well washed and cleansed. When it is wrung very dry, both the moss and worms should be put into an earthen pot close stopped, that they may not crawl out. In summer time this pot should stand cool, and the moss be changed only once a week.

Worms in general (except the earth-bob) are the better for being kept: but if you have not taken care to keep them, the way to cleanse and scour them for immediate use, is to lay your lob-worms all night in water, and then  
put

put them in your bag with fennel: but brandlings should not lay more than an hour in the water. Worms in general are best scoured by putting them for an hour in grains and blood, and then removing them into clean moss.

It is to be observed that worms are not to be found in the earth, there are several others which breed on trees and herbs, and afterwards become flies. Of these the chief are the oak-worm, caterpillar, grass-worm, and potato-worm. It is proper to keep these in small boxes to let in the air, and they must be fed with leaves of the same kind of tree on which they are found. They are good bait for toads, chads, crabs, grays, and trout.

Worms of all kinds should be well scoured in moss which has been well washed and dried. **THE** Moss is very dry both in the moss and worms should be put into an earthen pot close stopp'd, that they may not crawl out. In summer time this pot should stand cool, and the moss be changed once a week.

Worms in general (except the earth-bod) are the best for being kept: but if you have not taken care to keep them, the way to destroy and destroy them for immediate use, is to lay your worms all night in water, and then

put



THE

## Complete Fisherman.



### Of the TROUT.



F this fish there are several kinds, but the red and yellow are esteemed the best; and the female is preferred to the male, having a deeper body and a less head. The trout is more like a salmon than any other fish; his head short and roundish, his nose blunt, his tail broad, and his body thick; his jaws, palate, and tongue, are all supplied with teeth. They are fond of striving against the stream in small rapid rivers. The trout deposits her spawn in holes, in gravelly or stoney places, in November and December. This fish is fittest for the table in July and August; but they begin to be in season in March. The best baits for the trout are worms, minnows and flies, either natural or artificial. The best worms are the lob-worm and brandling, of the latter two on a hook; but earth-worms, dung-worms and maggots, are commonly used. In fishing at the bottom, the lob-worm is preferred to all others. Trouts are fond of lying in holes covered with boughs,

B

under

under the roots of trees; and here generally the largest fish lie. They often lurk for their prey under weeds, banks, or large stones. When their heads are seen in any of these situations, go up the stream, and make the water foul; then put your bait cautiously into the troubled place, keep out of sight, and follow your float. When you fish for trout in this way, it must be with a minnow, or two lob-worms well scoured: having put one worm on the hook with the head-foremost, put on the other with the tail foremost, then draw the first to it so as they may appear to be engendering; for in this position they often fall from the banks, and become a prey to the trout. Lob-worms are likewise good baits in the night, in the twilight of the morning, or dusk of the evening: the largest trouts are caught at these times, by throwing the bait gently across the stream, and drawing it to you cautiously on the top of the water. You fish best with worms when the water is cleared after a flood, or in windy, dark and gloomy weather. When you angle for a trout in foul water, with a dew-worm for a bait, thrust the hook in towards the tail, above the middle, and bringing it out below the head, draw the worm above the arming of the hook, and put the point into the head of the worm till it nearly reaches the place where the hook first came out, and draw back that part of the worm which was above the shank.

In angling for trout with flies, your line should be three times as long as the rod; and let the top of the rod be very slender, that the fly may be thrown with ease and certainty; for the fly will soon be lost, if the rod is too stiff. When you angle in this manner, the wind should blow down the stream, which will assist you in laying the fly on the water before it is touched by the line; for the fish will be frightened away if the line first touch the water.

The



## OF THE TROUT. 3

The trout bites best from sun-rising till eleven in the morning, and from two in the afternoon till sun-set, but the prime times for taking them are nine in the morning, and three in the afternoon, with the wind at South: at this time a bull-head, with the gill-fens cut off, or even a minnow, makes a good bait. In fishing for trout you need not be nice in the choice of flies, for these fish are not difficult of choice. The trout will take almost any fly at the top, any small fish in the middle, or any worm at the bottom of the water.

You may dib for a trout with a fly or grasshopper, under a bush, by the side of a bank, with a short line and strong rod; and, and if after five or six trials, they do not rise, you may conclude that they dislike your bait, or that no trouts are there. When a trout appears near the top of the water, he will take the oak-worm upon it, rather than the fly; and when the flies are dead, strip them of their wings, and fish with them at mid-water. This is an approved method. Some persons dib for trout as for chub, letting the fly drop very lightly into the water, and having kept it gliding on the surface, sink it, and rise it suddenly, with a strong rod, and short strong line; but the fisherman must keep out of sight, or the prey will be lost. Dibbing with the green drake-fly whilst living is thus practised. Get numbers of them; put them in a long draw-box, having holes to admit the air. They will continue lively for a night or more: take out one by the wings, and run the point of the hook through the thickest part of the body: then put on the other with the head the contrary way, and they will thus live a quarter of an hour, playing with their wings; but your bait will be spoiled if you do not keep their wings dry.

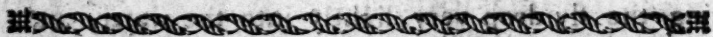
The stone-fly makes a good dibber in the streams, and from eight till eleven at night; and an artificial



#### 4 OF THE TROUT.

fly will also kill at these last-mentioned hours. Some recommend the cad-bait on the point of the hook with the artificial fly: others angle with the cad-bait on the water as with a fly; but neither place it on the shank of the hook, nor bring it into the bend. If the water is not violent, place a slender lead on the shank, and draw the cad-bait over it; then raise it frequently from the bottom, and let it sink again. A head of black silk, and a body of yellow wax, or shamoy, makes a good imitation of the cad-bait.

An effectual method of killing a trout is this: Of the feather of a land-rail make a pair of wings; and point the hook with one cadis or more: let the hook be bristled, the head of the cadis kept close to the wings; let your line be three yards long, and the rod five. Throw the wings and cadis up the stream, which will drive it under water towards the lower part of the hole: then draw it gently up the stream, in an irregular manner, shaking the rod, and you will soon hook the trout, if there be any.



#### Of the PIKE.

THIS fish is likewise called the *Luse* or *Pickarel*, and is remarkable for its voracious appetite. The head of it is flat, the back rather square, the snout projecting, and the form of the body long: the tail is forked, and the mouth wide: the body is covered with small thick scales; the belly white; the sides spotted with yellow; the eyes of a gold colour; the head and gills spotted with small holes; it has teeth in the lower jaw, which are crooked, and three rows of teeth in the palate.

These

These fish usually spawn in ditches, in the month of March. They breed very fast, and grow to the length of sixteen inches in the first year. When at the length of thirty inches they encrease in thickness. The flesh of the river pike is firm, dry, white, and sweet, and they are said to eat best when between the weight of three and twelve pounds. They are not fit to eat in March or April, being spawning time: but six weeks before or after these months, and during the rest of the year, they are in great perfection.

Pikes covet shady, quiet water, where they lurk among flags, weeds and bull-rushes: though they often range thence in search of prey. In winter they lay near the bottom, but in warmer weather get into the shallows. In clear, sultry weather, a pike will lay at the top of the water; but he will not then bite.

Early in the morning, and late in the evening, if the wind be brisk, and the water clear, this fish bites freely; but if he once rejects the bite, he will never take it afterwards in that spot.—The best baits are young bleak, roach, dace, loaches, gudgeons, and minnows. Frogs and salmon-smelts are good baits in July, and fat bacon in winter.

The principal ways of fishing for a pike are trowling, trimmer-angling, and snap-angling. For trowling the line should be forty yards long, or more, according to the breadth of the river, and made of green silk or thread. Take care your line does not tangle; for if it does, the pike will leave the bait after he has seized it. When your bait has sunk a considerable depth, and you see or feel the pike coming, give him line enough. When the line moves, you may judge he has swallowed the bait; then wind up the line, and, by a sudden jerk,

the contrary way to what the fish takes, hook him, and land him as soon as possible.

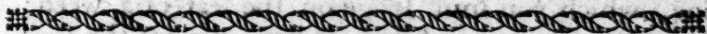
Trimmer-angling is practised in a canal, meer, or pond, or the still part of a river. Provide a cork six inches in diameter, with a groove whereon to wind part of your line, leaving at the hook-end as much as will let the bait hang at mid-water, and at the other end a proper length to fasten it to a bank or bush; and there leave it while you angle in other places. When the pike takes the bait, the line will run off the trimmer without checking him: but when you take up the line, check it, and secure your fish. This method is often practised in the night.

The snap consists of two large hooks placed back to back, and a perch-hook in the middle, on which hang by the back-fin a small roach, gudgeon, or dace: let it thus swim down the stream, and give it a jerk when the float is under water, for you may then conclude the pike has bit: keep your line strait; draw him quick to the shore, and take him up with your landing-net. The line should be shorter than the rod, and some brass-wire or gimp next the hook. Pikes are taken by two other methods, called snaring and hooking. From May to the end of July, in hot weather, pikes lay on the surface. Then tie a piece of pack-thread, about five feet in length, to a pole, fixing a running noose of wire at the end of it, which noose may be easily put over the head and gill-fins of the fish, which is brought to land by a sudden jerk. The other method is, to take a line seven or eight feet long, and arm it to a very large hook, with the shank neatly leaded, that its weight may guide it; and thus pikes may be struck when soaring near the surface: or four hooks may be placed back to back, at the end of such a line: but these methods are not much practised by the fair angler.

In

In trowling for pike, chuse clear water, and windy weather, provided the wind be not at east. The usual hook for a living bait consists of two large hooks on one shank, made of a single piece of wire, three quarters of an inch in length, the hooks placed back to back, but their points not in a right line, but inclining inwards, so as to form an angle with the shank. Leave a loop by the bending of the wire at the top of the shank, so as to make the hook double: through this loop put a strong twisted brass wire, six inches in length: to this such another link must be looped, but both so loose that the lower link and the hook may have room to play. A steel swivel is to be fastened at the end of the line.

Both in trowling and snapping cut away one of the fins of the bait-fish behind the vent, and another close at the gills on the opposite side; by which it will play the better. When your bait is thrown, let it sometimes sink, then rise it, and pull it with and against the stream, so that it may appear like the motion of a small fish. The pike will greedily seize it, and retreat to his hole: in about ten minutes he will pouch it, and the line moving, jerk him twice, and then play him. Pike are often caught by water-frogs, and the best for the purpose is the yellowest that can be got. At the fishing-tackle shops may be had all kinds of hooks for pike.



### *Of the* C A R P.

**T**HIS fish will grow to above four feet in length, and thick in proportion. It has no teeth, but two bones in the throat, and a triangular one in the palate, which supply the deficiency. Two yellow



low appendages hang from the upper lip. The tail is broad, and somewhat forked; its colour a black approaching to red. The scales are large, the head short, the mouth of a middle size; the lips yellow, fleshy and fat; it has no tongue, but a fleshy palate which resembles one; and the colour of the fish, when full grown, approaches to yellow. These fish spawn several times a year, but chiefly in May and August; and are in the highest perfection in April. No fish lives so long out of water as a Carp, the wholesomeness of which depends on the water in which it has been produced. The river carp, which are better than those of the pond, delight not in rapid streams, but covet deep water, with a bottom of marl or clay, intermixed with green weeds.

The carp is a sly, cautious fish, and will exercise the patience of the angler. In cold weather he seldom bites, and in hot weather must be fished for early in the morning, or late in the evening: but when he once bites, you may be certain of catching him. In March he takes the red-worm, in June the cadew, and from July till September the grasshopper; but it has lately been discovered that half-boiled green-peas, covered with butter, is an excellent bait for this fish. The carp will take a lob-worm at the top of the water in hot weather: or it may be sunk about eight inches, without a float, in a clear stream between the weeds: have only one large shot to your line, which you must lodge on the leaf of a weed: then draw back; and strike when you see the shot taken away with a foot of the line, and keep your fish tight, and clear of the weeds.

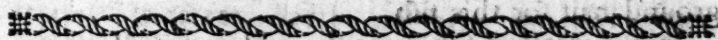
A place being found where carp are likely to resort, plumb the ground over-night to know the depth of the water, and put in a composition of bran, malt, wheat, or rye, mixed with congealed blood. Early in the morning go to the place; but be cautious not  
to



to be seen; when your float sails, strike with strength, the opposite way from the float, that you may not pull the bait from the mouth of the fish; and be careful that he does not cut your line with the saw-fin on his back. A landing-net is useful in carp-fishing; but if you have none, play the fish till you get him into shallow water, and fixing your rod upright in the ground, throw the fish on the land with both your hands.

The following paste is recommended as good to catch carp. Raw veal, fine flour, and honey, pounded in a mortar, with as much cotton-wool as will bind the ingredients together; or bread mixed into a paste with cotton-wool, and the water in which you fish. This fish will take green figs, currants, or a grass-hopper without its wings: or two gentles on one hook will do for pond-carp, chewed bread being first thrown into the place.

The best method of taking these fish in ponds, is to throw in slices or crumbs of bread; and when they have fed, bait with the upper-crust of a rasped French roll of the size of a horse-bean. Your rod must be long, your line strong, and the hook of a middle size, with the shot fixed just above it.



### Of the TENCH.

**T**HIS fish delights in the still parts of rivers, or in ponds, and is supposed to be a native of standing water. They are in their highest perfection from September to May, and spawn in June and the beginning of July. They are short, thick, and rather round, and three times longer than broad. The belly-fins of the male are much larger than

than those of the female. The taste of this fish is agreeable, but it is said not to be easy of digestion; and it is constantly refused to sick people, as being deemed rather unwholesome. They will not bite after a shower of rain; but at all other times, particularly in the night: and the best judges say their best time of biting is during the three hot months. They may be snared at the top of the water in hot weather, as a pike is, with a double-wired link, not twisted too tight, hung in a noose, and fastened to a long rod, or tied to a line. Let the implement fall softly before the fish, bring it over his gills, and he is easily taken by a gentle pull.

The following are admirable baits for this fish. A boiled grub, a green grub, a young wasp, a gentle, a lob-worm of the middle size, or a red-worm, well scoured. Some use the black clotted blood of a sheep's heart, made into a consistence with flour and honey; and a red-worm anointed with this is said to be an excellent bait. Others use a red-worm dipped in tar, which has been very successful. These fish bite pretty much in the same way as pond-carp, and will run away with the float; but if once hooked, and the tackle be strong, they are seldom lost. Blood, or a mixture of blood and grains, makes the ground-bait for this fish.

In hot weather fish near the mid-water, drawing the bait gently towards the surface, and letting it fall in the slowest manner. When the fish bites, allow him time to suck the bait, of which he is fond, and will not leave it; but if you strike too eagerly, you may lose him. In rivers you should prefer a cork; but in ponds use a strong grass, or gut, and a goose-quill float without a cork. When you bait with gentles, throw in a few after taking each fish, by which they will be kept together, and the more easily

easily caught. Mix tar with your paste when you angle with it, and remember that the best time for fishing is an hour before and after the rising and setting of the sun.



*Of the* P E R C H.

**T**HE greatest length of this fish is generally from twelve to fourteen inches, at its utmost growth; but it has been known of the length of fifteen inches. It is rather broad than long, and the back is something like that of a hog. Its colour is a dusky yellow, and from the back towards the belly there runs five or six blackish places like girdles. This fish is wholesome, agreeable in taste, firm, and easy of digestion; but the liver being often measly, it is not customary to eat it. They spawn annually, about the end of February; and it is said that the fins of the male are of a deeper red than those of the female.

The perch, being a very voracious fish, is generally roving during the day-time, in search of food; but the likeliest places to find him is in a gentle stream of moderate depth, or under the stumps of trees, the piles of bridges, or a hollow bank. They commonly retire to repose in a particular spot in the night, and if, early in the morning, you can find their lurking-place, you may probably take them all; for they commonly herd together, and bite without fear, the taking of one not in the least discouraging the rest. They will thrive if enclosed in a pond; but rivers are the more natural places of their residence.

Though this fish bites best in warm weather, yet in the midst of summer he is easiest taken, when it is

is windy, cloudy, and moderately cool, and from seven till ten in the morning, and from two in the afternoon till sun-set. The perch will not bite early in the spring, and it is a maxim not to fish for him till the mulberry-tree begins to bud. If you do not meet with sport soon after you begin to fish, quit the place; for this fish bites immediately: angle near the bottom, continually raising your bait almost to the top, and letting it gradually fall again.

Worms, minnows, and small frogs are good baits, and the dock, or flag-worm, is deemed excellent: but two brandling-worms, well scoured in moss, placed on one hook, is accounted a killing bait, except in the river Mole, and others that run into the Thames, where minnows are scarce. These fish, which are not delicate in what they feed on, have been frequently caught with a fly, when fishing for trout, and sometimes two at a time have been caught with red-worms on two hooks, angling for gudgeons. The gill of its own kind is a bait for this fish.

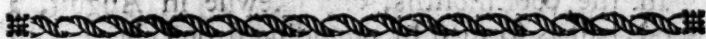
The perch has the largest mouth in proportion to its size of any fish: they instantly swallow within a foot of the ground. In fishing with a minnow or frog, they should be allowed more time before you strike, than when a worm is the bait. As a perch struggles hard for life, he affords much sport to the angler: when pursued by the pike, he sets up his sharp fins, and often saves his life. When a large perch bites, allow him time to swallow the bait; but if the fish be small, strike instantly, particularly if you bait with a brandling-worm.

In baiting with a frog, thrust the hook through its leg, near the thigh, and keep your bait as far from shore as you can, for he will be constantly making thither. Good sport is to be expected at the eddy of the water, where there is a gravel-scur; and  
your



your tackle should be always strong, as in fishing for perch, pikes are frequently taken.

In angling for perch with a worm, observe these directions: Use the red-worm at bottom in March: In April, a red-snail, the oak-worm, or a young frog with its feet cut off: In May, the dock-worm, or the insect that is found on the hawthorn, oak-leaf, or osier-leaf: In June, the dor, or the cod-bait put before the red-worm with the head cut off: In July, the dunghill-grub, or large grasshopper: In August, and the succeeding months, brandlings, or red-worms; and two or three gentles at all other times.



### *Of the* CHUB.

**T**HIS fish likewise bears the name of chevin. The head of it is flatter and larger than the dace, and its make longer than that of the carp; and its back is a dead green. It generally lurks in holes, under the shade of trees, in a clayey or sandy bottom. They usually swim in bodies together, and do not quit the places they have been used to. They have been met with of eight pounds weight. Their common time of spawning is May, in the middle of the stream, among sand or gravel; and while they are full of spawn, in the spring, they are deemed best for eating. The flesh of the chub is white, soft, and almost insipid; so that it is not much admired.

This fish generally swims at midwater, though sometimes near the top, and may be taken by dishing. You may angle for him from the beginning of May till September, from the dawn of the morning till nine o'clock; and from the beginning of June to the end of August, from five in the evening till  
C night;

night; and all night long with a whitemoth. In the winter he lies low, and is fished for with fresh brains of an ox or cow; but besides your bait, a small quantity should be mixt with water, and thrown in where you fish. The spinal marrow of an ox is likewise an excellent bait in winter. But the chub will take almost any bait, viz. worms, gentles, the brood of wasps, black-berries, dew-berries, black snails with their bellies slit, grasshoppers, new cheese, and paste of all kinds. A large bait suits this fish best. In summer time, at mid-water, five or six of the grubs found on cabbages or nettles, or any or all these, mixed with flies, form an excellent bait.

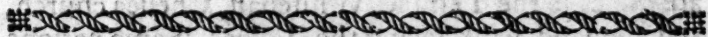
In the cool months, and likewise in August, a good bait is formed by pounding strong cheese with butter, and as much saffron as will turn it to a lemon-colour. They will likewise bite freely at a minnow. In chub-fishing, remember to angle at mid-water, or higher, in hot weather, and near the bottom in cold. Let your line be long, and keep out of sight when you fish near the top with a beetle or fly. When you use a fly, let it be a large hackle, and point your hook with four or five large gentles. Your line must be fourteen or fifteen yards long: cast it across the stream; and let it go down with the current, as they take a fly better under water than at the top: your rod should not be slender, and six yards long. Strike smartly when the line is drawn.

This fish is deemed best eating in winter, especially baked: for the forked bones are then changed to a kind of gristle. When you dib, the chub will take green caterpillars, ash-flies, oak-worms, black ant-flies, or small butter-flies with the great wings cut off. It is a cowardly fish, and soon yields when turned: nevertheless you must conquer him as soon as possible, for when he is hooked, he is apt to seek the banks, by which the tackle may be endangered.

On

On first throwing the bait, the fish flies from it, but soon returns and swallows it, if the fisherman keeps out of sight.

The following is an almost certain method of obtaining sport with these fish. Procure some grasshoppers, and repairing to the holes where the chub float on the top of the water in hot days, put a grasshopper on your hook, and let it hang within a quarter of a yard of the water, by means of resting the rod on a bough, keeping yourself out of sight behind the tree. The fish generally sinks to the bottom of the water, being frightened at the least shadow; but soon rises again; and when they lay soaring on the top, let the rod move gently towards the best fish you can fix your eye on, when he will be almost certain of biting at the bait, and of course be taken: but be careful to play him sufficiently before you land him.



### Of the ROACH.

THE breadth of this fish is about a third of its length. Its belly is pale, its back dusky, and sometimes of a blue cast. The gills are of a gold-colour, the mouth round, but it has no teeth, being what is called a leather-mouthed fish. The tail is forked, and this, as well as the fins, and the iris of the eyes, is of a red colour. These fish breed both in ponds and rivers: those of the rivers are deemed the best, though those of the pond are the largest. Their time of spawning is in the middle of May, after which they recover their strength in about a month. In angling for roach in a river, use one gentle: in a pond, throw in white bread chewed,

and having baited with a large gentle, lay the bait six inches from the bottom, and you will catch the largest fish, and with much more certainty than by any other method.

Paste or gentles form the winter-bait for this fish; that for April is worms or cod-bait; when the weather is very hot, small white snails, earth-bobs, new cheese, or flies under water; for the roach seldom takes them at the top, as the dace does; though these fish resemble the dace in many other particulars.

There is much diversion near London in the roach fishery. Hire a boat with rip-hooks, to fix it in the midst of the stream. Make a ground-bait of bran and stale bread mixed into balls, with clay or small stones to sink it to the bottom. The best bait is three well-scoured gentles on a hook, and let them swim at about a foot from the bottom of the water. The time of fishing is from half-ebb tide, till within two hours of high-water, and the most proper places are opposite the Temple, Whitehall, Chelsea church, and the sand-bank facing the Tower. Some persons take their stands on the shore, near the Isle of Dogs, and Limehouse, and fish from the dead-ebb till within an hour of high-water.

A diversion called stern-fishing, is practised below bridge. This is done by fixing a boat to the stern of a vessel that has been a voyage, and is furnished with insects fit for fish to feed on. In this fishing, your line should not exceed four feet, your float should be within twelve inches of the top of it, and your rod very short: let the bait be three or four gentles, and lay in as close as possible to the ship's stern, permitting your bait to swim eight or nine feet, and not more. You should begin at the first of the ebb-tide, and will be certain of sport for two hours or more; and will often catch dace, as well as roach.

Cold



Cold air, high wind, rough water, wet weather, the falling of the land-floods, or rising of the spring-tides, are all objections to angling in the Thames: but much sport may be expected at the Chalk-hill near the piles of London-Bridge, when the tide is low.



### *Of the* BARBEL.

**T**HIS fish is long, rather round, and his nose sharp. The upper jaw extends over the lower, but the mouth is not large: near the corner of his mouth he has two barbs, and two near the end of his snout; and from these he is said to take his name. He is a handsome, well-shaped fish, the belly silver, the back olive, and both back and sides speckled with small black spots. This fish is clean and sound in summer, but sick and languid in winter, not being able to endure the cold weather. They are deemed best in the month of September; but, upon the whole, they are not much esteemed, the flesh being soft and flabby. The spawn of this fish is very purgative, and some persons think it a kind of poison. Their length is from twelve to eighteen inches, and the common weight from seven to eight pounds. Most rivers produce them, but they are particularly plentiful in the Thames. During the summer they haunt the swiftest and shallowest streams, where they skulk under the weeds, and rout up the sand with the nose. Sometimes, however, they retreat into deep waters, at weirs, locks, flood-gates, and bridges.

In the months of June, July, and August, this fish bites early in the morning, and from four in the afternoon till sun-set; but some persons prefer September.

## 18 OF THE BARBEL.

tember and October to any other months, because they then retreat to their deep holes. In summer time they are easily taken with a scoured lob-worm, when they come to the shallows near sun-set.

In fishing for the barbel, use a strong rod, at the end of which should be a tough whale-bone. Your line must be silk, except next the hook, where you must have ten hairs: put a large bullet on the line, but you have no occasion for a float. You must fish at ground for the barbel, which will take bits of bacon, worms of any kind, or old or new cheese, if kept in a linen rag dipped in honey, to make it tough. This fish is very strong, struggles hard for its life, and will often pick off the bait, and fly with it. These fish are to be met with at all the locks between Maidenhead and Oxford: but the most celebrated places near London for taking them are Chertsey-Bridge, Walton-Deeps, Hampton-Ferry, Sheperton-Deeps, Kingston-Bridge, and the holes under Cooper's-Hill.

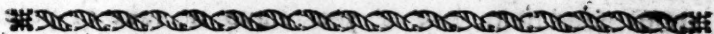
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### *Of the DACE.*

**T**HIS fish bears a considerable likeness to the chub, but is in all respects smaller; the tail is more forked, and the body more flat, and whiter. He is a very active fish, breeds in most rivers, and in summer commonly lays near the top of the water. The dace spawns in February and March, and is good food during all the summer; but from September to February is in the highest perfection: and the flesh is sweet, soft, and nourishing. These fish seek the deepest part of the river, under the shade of dock-leaves, or trees, and likewise delight in gravelly or sandy bottoms. When

When you angle between two mill-streams, let it be in the eddy; if the water be deep, fish within a foot of the bottom; but if shallow, bait your hook with three large gentles: make use of a cork-float, not more than eighteen inches from the hook, and strike the moment the fish bites. The large dace usually frequent the places above-mentioned.

These fish are very simple, and bite freely; but their favourite bait is a gentle at bottom, and a small fly at the top. The ant-fly is best in the summer months; but they will take all sorts of small worms, and paste of every kind. They are angled for with a very small rod, a small hook, and a line of single hairs from the top to the hook. Use one small shot, and a float made of two quills of the sea-gull, each cut within an inch of the feather, the open end of one thrust into the other, and made fast with fine silk waxed. Your tackle being thus prepared, throw some small bits of chewed bread into the water, bait with gentles, and you need not doubt of success. This fish will take flies of all kinds, and likewise an earth-bob in the spring, if the hook be pointed with one gentle. If you throw boiled malt in the water, and bait with grains, you will often catch chub and bream as well as dace.



### *Of the* GUDGEON.

THESE fish are to be found in almost all the rivers of England, but grow to a larger size in some than in others. In the river Mersey they are found of the length of eight or nine inches; but the common size is from five to six. The scales are very small, and the body smooth; the belly pale, and the back

20 OF THE GUDGEON.

back of a dark colour. They generally spawn in November, and likewise at the latter end of April. The taste of the gudgeon is agreeable, it's digestion easy, and the flesh nourishing; and some persons deem them almost as good as smelts. They resort to deep water in winter, but to shallow in summer; frequent small rivers, and delight in gentle streams, with gravelly or sandy bottoms.

From the beginning of April till Michaelmas, the gudgeon will bite from an hour after the rising, till an hour before the setting of the sun: but if you angle in a place between four and five feet deep, which lies below a scower, has a sandy bottom, and is near the spot where the fish bit at mid-day, you may sometimes have excellent sport an hour after sun-set.

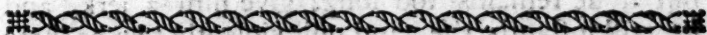
These fish are caught in deeper water mornings and evenings, than at noon. When you try for them in the Thames, direct the waterman to rake up the gravel, that the gudgeons may come about you: then plumb the ground, and bait with a small red-worm well scoured; the tackle being the same as for dace, and you will seldom fail of excellent sport.

In angling for them in shallow places, rake up the sand or gravel, which will make them flock about your bait: but if you have no rake or pole for this convenience, throw in some handfuls of earth. Make use of a float, and let your bait lay or drag on the ground. They sometimes nibble before they take the bait, therefore be not too eager to strike at the first biting.

The implements to catch this fish are a single hair-line, a small hook, a fine taper rod, and a float. The proper baits are the meadow-worm, brandling, red-worm, or brandling; but they prefer the small red-worm to any other: however they will take the  
cod-



cod-bait, the gentle, the cow-dung bob, or the brood of wasps. As gudgeons are fond of the shade, an excellent place to angle for them is under a bridge or plank over a small river. This is by no means a shy fish, but will instantly return to its usual place of resort after being driven away.



### Of the BREAM.

THE largest general size of this fish does not exceed five pounds, though they have been known to weigh ten. The snout is sharp, the head small, and the fish broad and flat. The taste of it is not generally esteemed, though they may be cooked so as to make a very good dish. The Thames produces very few bream, and the river Mole, in Surry, more than any other river in England: but they delight rather in ponds than in rivers: so that they are met with in such parts of the river as have muddy or clayey bottoms, and resemble standing water: but never in swift, or rapid streams. They generally swim together in considerable numbers.

The bream feeds on dirt, weeds, and slime; but will eat of various bait, as the dew-worm, or marsh-worm, well scoured, two or three large brandlings, or the large red-worm, all which are generally successful in killing him: but he will take cod-baits, flies under water, the brood of bees or wasps, or any kind of paste. These fish are eatable in September, but are in their highest perfection in March and April, and spawn in May. They should be angled for during a breeze of wind, but demand very diligent baiting to keep them together. The  
time

time of fishing for them is early in the morning, and from about three or four in the afternoon till sunset, in warm weather; and the most probable place to find them, is the deepest and broadest part of the river. They do not bite freely, and the largest fish are the most cautious: when a fish is struck, he makes to the bottom, and will lay there a considerable time; but if he remains too long, give him a jerk, and he will instantly rise, and pull violently two or three times; but when he is once turned, he is soon conquered. When the water is rough, the bait for this fish is to be placed within a foot of the ground.

The most approved method of angling for the bream, is to find a shallow, sandy bottom, below which is a deep hole; throw into the shallows two or three handfuls of marsh-worms cut in pieces, which will soon be driven down to the hole. Your rod should be strong, and of a considerable length, and the line in proportion; the hook small, and you must fish without a float. Tie your hook to India grass, and on the grass put a cut shot six inches from the hook, and above the shot a small bullet, so that the shot may prevent the bullet from slipping down. This being done, bait the hook with a marsh-worm well scoured, throw it into the shallow, and it will soon be driven into the hole by the stream. An amazing number of fish has been known to be caught in a short time by this method.

The following is likewise recommended as a successful method of catching bream. Having found a hole near the bank, plumb its depth in the evening, and immediately bait it with grains well squeezed, mixed with blood. Go to the place early in the morning, and keeping out of sight of the fish, bait with a large red-worm, and drop your hook gently into the hole. Good sport may be expected if you  
angle

angle with gentles, or the brood of wasps, and bait with white bread chewed: but in this case your hook must be smaller, and your line and rod neither so strong, nor so long.



### *Of the* GRAYLING.

**T**HIS fish is seldom above eighteen inches in length, or its weight more than a pound and a half; though in some places it is said to have been found of thrice that weight: it is narrower and not so thick as the trout. The grayling spawns in May: it is eatable all the year, but in the highest perfection in December, at which time a black list runs down the back, and over the head and gills. The flesh is deemed wholesome; it is firm, white, and cleaves like salmon, and the flavour of it is by many persons preferred to that of all other river fish. It delights in the swift and clear parts of those streams which glide through mountainous places; and abounds in the rivers Trent, Derwen, Dove, Lug, Hodder, and Wye.

This fish is fond of grass-hoppers, flies, worms, &c. and is frequently taken by these kind of baits; but a red-worm well scoured, and offered him at about four inches from the bottom, is likely to be preferable to any other bait. The mode of catching the trout, will serve in all respects for the grayling, only that the tackle must be finer. The silkworm gut, well waxed with virgin wax, is proper in fly-fishing for the grayling. He is a bolder fish, and less artful, than the trout, and will rise to the fly, though frequently missed; and being never fond of descending, the bait should be kept full nine inches from

## 24 OF THE GRAYLING.

from the ground, and a float is better than the running line. If you chuse to try for him at ground, your baits should be the brandling, bark-worm, flag-worm, cod-baits, gilt-tail, tag-tail, or meadow-worm, well scoured. At the top he may be taken with the earth-bob, clap-bait, or with natural or artificial flies. This fish is remarkably lively, and swims with uncommon speed; but when he once feels the hook, he is soon conquered.



### *Of the EEL.*

**O**F this fish there are four kinds, which are called the silver-eel, the greg, the red-finn'd eel, and the blackish eel. This last is least in esteem, and its head is larger, flatter, and broader than the rest: but it is doubtful if these distinctions arise from nature or accident. The general names of distinction of the Thames eels are the greg, and the silver eel; the former being thicker, shorter, and of a darker colour than the latter.

The body of the eel is long, and its skin smooth, and covered with a slimy moisture, that renders it extremely slippery. In cold weather these fish are fond of hiding in the mud, yet they have an aversion to muddy water, which is apt to suffocate them. They feed on earth-worms, small fish, and snails, and are fond of small frogs, the guts of fowls, salted beef, raw flesh, lob-worms, and lampreys: but the more proper baits for them are roach, bleak, dace, and small gudgeons. They usually hide among weeds in the day-time, or under the roots of trees, among piles, planks, or boards of mills, weirs, or bridges, or under stones. In the time of a flood they



they are caught in nets at mill-dams, and similar situations.

To angle for them, you must provide a strong rod, the line the same as for trowling, the hook armed, and the bait must lie ledger, that is, it must be so fixed as to remain in one certain place, while the fisherman is in another. The properest time to angle for eels is in gloomy, or rainy weather, particularly after a storm of thunder. In eel fisheries, great numbers have been caught by dipping in small sieves in clear weather, when they come up with the tide.

There is a method of catching eels with spears. A cord should be fastened thro' a hole bored at the top of one of the spears. In hot weather, when they lie in the deepest part of the pond, dart your spear into the mud, which will disturb them so, that they will swim to the side of the pond, and again strike into the mud. This will form a circle in the water, which will be a sufficient guide where another spear is to be struck; and by this method great numbers are taken.

Eels are likewise caught by means of night-hooks. These are fastened to the bank, or a tree, so that the fish cannot draw them away; and they are likewise taken by a number of hooks fastened to a line, thrown across the stream. This line should be tied to a large plummet of lead, or a stone, which being thrown into the water in a remarkable place, may be found in the morning, and taken up with a drag-hook, or by any other method.

The following is an approved method of bobbing for eels, as extracted, verbatim, from a celebrated writer: "Provide a large quantity of well-scoured  
"lob-worms, and then, with a long needle, pass  
"a thread through them from head to tail, until  
"you have strung about a pound. Tie both ends  
"of the thread together, and then make them up  
D "into

“ into about a dozen or twenty links. The common way is to wrap them about a dozen times round the hand, and then tying them altogether in one place, makes the links very readily. This done, fasten them all to a small cord, or part of a trowling line, about four yards in length. Above the worms there should be a small loop to fix the worms to, for a lead plummet to rest on. The plummet should weigh about half a pound, or from that to a pound, according to the stream; the smaller the line, the less the plum: it should be made in the shape of a pyramid, with a hole through the middle for the line to pass through: the broad part of the plummet, or the base of the pyramid, should be towards the worms, because that will keep it more steady. When you have put your plummet on your line, you must fasten it to a strong, stiff, taper pole, of about three yards long, and then the apparatus is finished.”

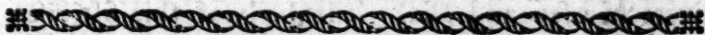
Having provided your tackling, as above described, angle either in the deeps or sides of streams, in muddy water, and the eels will presently take the bait. To secure them, you must draw them gently towards the top of the water, and then get them into your boat, or on shore, by a sudden jerk. Three or four fish have often been caught at once by this method.

A singular method of catching eels, is by sniggling, or brogling. This is practised only in warm weather, and in shallow water. The requisites for this fishing, are a strong silk line, and a lob-worm, baited on a small hook. At about eighteen inches from your bait, you must put your line into the cleft of a stick, which you must thrust into such holes as the eel is supposed to frequent, and they generally bite if there are any in the place. You must contrive that the line may readily disengage from the stick, when  
the

the fish takes the bait. Having hooked your prey, let him tire himself with pulling, and you will more certainly secure him, than by attempting to draw him out hastily.

In fishing for eels, it has sometimes happened that pike and perch have been caught, by eel-hooks, baited with lob-worms, and small fish. In this case the eel-hooks have been placed on a line, about four feet asunder, having a heavy lead to sink it. Sometimes eels have been caught by putting fowls guts, shreds of liver, &c. into a bundle of brush-wood, which being placed in the water over-night, they are easily pulled up. Sometimes, likewise, bottles of hay, loosely stuffed with the same ingredients, have taken numbers of them, by a sudden pulling up, by means of a rope.

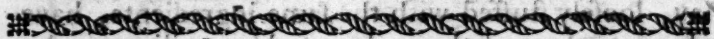
Authors differ with regard to the generation of eels: some affirm that there is no distinction of the sex; while others say that they have been seen to copulate. The larger eels, especially the females, endeavour to get into the sea about Michaelmas, and return in the spring of the following year.



### *Of the* E E L - P O U T .

**T**HIS fish is likewise distinguished by the name of the Burbot. He is either without scales, or they are so small as to be scarcely discernible. His colour is black, and not unlike a tench. His body is slippery, soft, and smooth, like an eel. He has teeth on each of his jaws, and his head is rather flat. His tail is bent in a form almost circular. He has a barb, half an inch long, from the lower jaw, and a short pair of barbs, between the nostrils and the snout.

These fish spawn in December, and are remarkably prolific. Their most usual places of residence, are the rivers Trent and Severn. They resort to the same kind of retreats as eels do, provided it be within reach of the tide; and after a storm of thunder and lightening, attended by a heavy rain, they are most certainly taken. The common length of this fish, is from fourteen to twenty inches, and they are deemed pleasant and wholesome food. A dace, roach, or small gudgeon, is the best bait; but the hook must be armed, for the eel-pout struggles hard for his life; is very strong, and has sharp teeth.



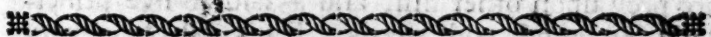
### Of the LAMPREY.

**T**HIS fish is also called the Lampern: its length is from ten to twelve inches, the belly of it is of a bright silver colour, and the back a grey, approaching to black. It has six or seven teeth, in a mouth of a round form, and is chiefly to be met with in the rivers Mersey and Isis. The belly of this fish rises and falls, in the same manner as in animals that breathe. The lamprey being apt to adhere to a rock, or stone, its mouth is frequently shut, to provide against inconvenience from which, nature has provided a hole on the top of the head, which is afterwards discharged by the gills, or seven holes, placed on each side, near the head: and from this circumstance, some persons call this fish the *seven-eyes*. The lamprey has not a single bone in its body; but the want of these seems to be naturally supplied by the capsula of the heart being of a boney substance. Their mode of procreation is different from that of all other fish: the river lampreys get into the flial-  
lows,



lows, where they procreate with their bellies joined together, as hath been frequently observed. These fish commonly spawn in April, and if cut in pieces, to the length of an inch and a quarter, furnish excellent bait for night-hooks. Their flesh is soft and glutinous, and they are commonly eaten potted; but they are not deemed so wholesome as agreeable.

The blind LAMPREY, a species of this fish, is deemed an excellent bait for chubs and eels. This fish has neither tongue nor teeth, but a round mouth, which is constantly open: it has no scales, and is round and small, like a lob-worm, or dew-worm; but it has a hole on its head, and seven holes on each side, instead of gills, as in the fish above-mentioned.

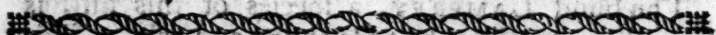


### *Of the* LAMPREY EEL.

**T**HIS fish has a small hole on its head, with a white spot behind it, and this hole answers the same end as that in the lamprey. It has gills concealed under the seven holes, placed on each side. Its mouth is very jagged, and its teeth large. It has no bones, but the gristle of the back is filled with marrow. The skin is blackish, but almost covered with angular spots, of a pale colour. They are found in great plenty in the rivers, where they spawn, though they live chiefly in the sea. They are in the highest perfection when they enter the rivers in March, in order to spawn; and in April they deposit their spawn in a gravelly bottom. After spawning, they retreat to the sea, leaving their brood behind them, and these, having hid in the sand, become about five inches long at three

### 30 OF THE LAMPREY EEL.

months old, and are then caught by boys, who throw them on the bank with the sand. It is said that the lamprey-eel has been found in the Severn of the length of three feet. These fish are seldom angled for, but sometimes caught with worms, in fishing for others.



### *Of the* MULLET.

**T**HIS fish, at its utmost growth, is something more than four feet in length: it has a sharp snout, and a flat head, and in shape bears a considerable resemblance to the dace. The mullet does not prey upon other fish, and is said to live principally on mud and weeds. This fish bites very boldly, and is to be taken with those flies at which the trout is apt to bite. As they make great resistance, the tackle with which they are fished for must be strong; and within two feet of the bottom, they will take the marsh-worm, or the lob-worm.

The river Arundel, in Suffex, and the Exe, in Devonshire, are famous for these fish; but they go no farther up a river than the salt-water tide; however, they come, and return, with the tide, into most of the rivers in the south of England. They will continue whole days in the Mersey, and in hot weather, for several days together. They frequent large sand-banks, in shallow water, in great numbers, and as the fishermen are drawing for them, in the Mersey, will leap above two feet high, and spring over the net, from one sand-hole to another.

The spawn of the mullet being pickled by the Italians, receives the name of botargo, and is deemed a fine relish, with a glass of wine, and good to provoke the appetite.

*Of*

*Of the B A S S.*

**T**HE shape of this fish is very similar to that of a salmon: the belly of it is of a silver colour, and the back blue, approaching to dirt-colour. The scales are very thick, of a moderate size, and stick very close together. It has a large mouth, filled with small teeth, and has two triangular bones in the throat, and one in the palate. The eyes are large, and silver coloured, with dark, cloudy spots, but there is a circle of yellow next the pupil. The young fish have black spots on the back and sides; but these disappear as they encrease in size.

Fifteen pounds weight is deemed a very large fish; but they are so uncommonly voracious, that they have been sometimes known to grow to the length of above four feet. They live either in ponds, rivers, or the sea. Those of the sea are accounted the best, and next to them those that are found in the mouths of considerable rivers. They have been sometimes caught by persons who have been angling for mullet, but the usual mode of catching them is with nets. The flesh of this fish is very wholesome, and the taste deemed highly palatable.

*Of the S A L M O N.*

**T**HE body of this fish is rather long, its head small, its tail forked, its snout sharp, and it is covered with thin small scales. Most part of the body is white, beautifully intermixed with spots of a black and red cast; but it is of a blueish colour on the back. The nose of the female is longer, and  
not

not so strait as that of the male: the scales likewise are less bright, and the body is variegated with spots of a dark brown. As the spawn encreases, the belly becomes more flat, the taste is less agreeable, and the flesh less red, and drier. On the whole, however, the salmon is a beautiful fish, and in general esteem.

They are caught in great numbers in the river Mersey, in Cheshire, and bear different names according to their ages. In the first year, they are called *smelts*; in the second, *sprods*; in the third, *morts*; in the fourth, *fork-tails*; in the fifth, *half-fish*; and in the sixth, *salmons*. In May, or June, the smelts weigh about two ounces, and then leave the Mersey, to which they return in August and September, and will then weigh a pound and a half, and often more, so that their growth is very quick. The full weight of salmon is from thirty-six to fifty-four pounds.

The male fish has an excrescence growing from the lower jaw, about two inches in length, and resembling the beak of a hawk. This is intended by nature to annoy such fish as would devour the spawn, and it falls off when the salmon returns to the sea. This fish has quadruple fins, with a broad cover, full of red spots; but its teeth are very small, in proportion to the size of the body.

When the salmon is in perfection, its flesh is red, and flakey, and the taste of it remarkably sweet and luscious; so that it is a food with which the eaters are soon satisfied. It is the better for being kept some days; so that the salmon eaten in London is preferable to that dressed immediately on being caught. It loses its colour at the approach of spawning time. Some are out of season soon after Midsummer, when their colours decay, and they lose their beautiful spots. When quite out of season, they



they are called kippers, and have very little of the appearance of the same kind of fish.

In spawning time, the female retires to some gravelly bottom, where she works till she has made a sort of nest, nearly of her own size, in which she leaves her spawn. Then the male comes, and covering the spawn with his belly, ejects a whitish fluid; and then both of them join to cover the brood with gravel, which they rout up with their noses. This being done, they retire to deep water, and in about twenty days recover their strength. These fish reside in the river about six months in the year, and it is remarkable of them, that they are fond of returning to the same rivers where they were spawned; which has been proved by fishermen putting ribband, tape, &c. into the tail fin, and afterwards catching the same fish, on the same spot; by this likewise the quickness of their growth has been ascertained.

The principal rivers in England, which produce this fish, are the Thames, Trent, Mersey, Medway, Dee, Exe, Tyne, Severn, &c. but they are soonest in season in the north, from whence the London market is supplied.

The most remarkable circumstance respecting this fish, is its leaping over those obstacles which oppose its passage to or from the sea. The height to which they will leap is astonishing, and after having made several attempts to obtain their point, they are often caught in baskets placed below. On the river Tivy, in Pembroke-shire, is a cataract, called the salmon leap, where spectators wonder at the strength and agility they use, in getting out of the sea into the river. At Old Aberdeen, in Scotland, and at the river Wear, in Durham, are other salmon-leaps: but this last is deemed the best we have in England.

When

## 34 OF THE SALMON.

When the passage of these fish to the sea is absolutely prevented, they pine away, and will die in the second year.

It may now be proper to give an account of the method of taking the salmon with an angle. He generally bites best about three in the afternoon, in May, June, and July; particularly if there be a breeze of wind, and clear water; and if the wind and stream set in a contrary direction, your success is still more probable. The common baits are dace, gudgeons, bleaks, minnows, lob-worms, or two dew-worms, well scoured; but the bait must be frequently changed, as the fish is very apt to change his taste. He is particularly fond of the horse-leech-fly, of which there are several colours, which have large bodies and heads, and long tails; and some of them have two, and others three pair of wings behind each other. Whip the body about with gold and silver twist, behind each pair of wings, and fish at length with the fly, in the same manner as for trout or grayling. When you dib for this fish, do it with two or three butterflies, of various colours, or other flies, the most gaudy that can be procured.

In fly-fishing for the salmon, chuse a large and strong hook: but in fishing at the bottom, two well-scoured lob-worms have been found to produce excellent sport. When you practise this method, you should have a large hook, armed with gimp, or you may be in danger of losing your prize, for though, when struck, he scarce ever attempts to bite the line, yet it must rake against his teeth, because you are necessitated to play him for some time. The bristles of a Westphalia hog, doubled, are recommended next to gimp; but you may use the bristles of an English hog, as the others are only preferred on account of their length.

When

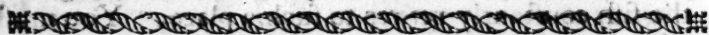
When you see a salmon leap out of the water, you may be certain there is a deep hole near the spot. If, in this case, you are hindered by a contrary wind from throwing your fly, or if the river be too broad, place your ledger-bait as near to the hole as possible, and you will hardly fail of succeeding, for the fish constantly retires to such a place. You must use your swivel and reel, with a large cork-float, and your living bait about mid-water, provided you fish with a gudgeon, dace, &c.

For the salmon-smelt, scegger, or salmon-fry, your best baits are gentles, brandlings, black and dun gnats, earth-bobs, ant-flies, small hackles of all colours, and dubb'd flies, which suit the season. These fish usually assemble in shoals, and ten or a dozen will rise at once at the fly, a little before they leave the river: three or four hooks, tied each to a single hair, are often used to one line. These fish are commonly found amongst woods, or weeds, or in the scours near the deeps.

The salmon fishery begins about New-year's-day, and ends near the middle of August; and the principal European fisheries are on the coasts of Great-Britain and Ireland. The chief places are where rivers empty themselves into the sea, as they croud thither for fresh water. It is not uncommon for salmon to be darted, as they attempt to get over the weirs. In the neighbourhood of Flixon, in Lancashire, they set fire to straw, or light torches, which being mistaken for day-light, the fish approach it, and are either struck by a spear, or caught by a sudden jerk of nets, which have been previously placed near the spot where the fires are lighted. The spawn of salmon is good bait for chub, and even for trouts, in some rivers, particularly in winter and spring, where salmon have been used to spawn.

Some

Some persons use it raw; others salt it, and hang it in a linen bag till it grows hard, and steep it all night in spirituous liquors before using it; and others, again, boil it till it is hard enough to stick on the hook.



### *Of the* BLEAK.

**T**HIS fish has large eyes, the lower part of the iris being spotted with red. The inside of his mouth greatly resembles that of a carp: he is flatter and thinner than the chub, and his head is less in proportion. The body is covered with thin scales, of a silver colour, which are easily rubbed off. He seldom grows to six inches in length. The bleak spawns in March, but recovers its strength in about three weeks, and is in the highest perfection in autumn. The smallness of this fish prevents its being a considerable object of the angler's attention; yet the taste is agreeable, and the food nourishing. They abound in many of the rivers of England.

It is very pleasant fishing for them in the following manner. Procure a hazle rod, of five or six feet in length, and a line twice as long; and bait your hook with a small gentle. Thus provided, procure a boat, or fish from the bank of a river, in a rapid stream, on a summer evening. This diversion is called whipping for bleak. In the cold months, the most proper bait are small red-worms, or gentles; but in summer, they may be taken with a small gnat, or an artificial ant-fly.

The bleak is almost constantly in motion, and continually changing his situation; so that the most approved method of angling for him is with a pater-noster



notter line, which consists of six or eight very small hooks, tied along a line, at five or six inches distance from each other. The bleak bites freely, and scarce ever refuses the bait.



## Of the SALMON TROUT.

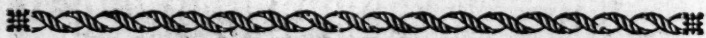
**T**HIS fish likewise bears the name of the Bull-trout, and of the Salmon-peale, or Scurf. Its body is beautified with many spots; its head is shorter and thicker than the grey, and it has not a forked tail, as the salmon has. They abound in Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and Yorkshire, and come into the rivers about the beginning of May. Those taken in Yorkshire are of a strong taste, nor is the flesh of them red, like the salmon. The general length of this fish, at its full growth, is from sixteen to twenty inches; but it is said they have been caught of the weight of almost twenty pounds, near Warrington in Lancashire.

The most proper bait for this fish is a brandling, well scoured, of the kind that breeds in a tanner's yard; but they will rise at an artificial fly, in the same manner that a salmon does. They bite freely, and make great resistance before they are killed. They are in season all the summer, and the proper times for angling for them are from five in the afternoon till night, and during the whole of the morning. Their places of resort are deep holes, usually under the roots of trees. They lie watching for their prey on that side of the hole next the stream, that they may the more easily catch what is brought down by it. Some persons have called

the

### 38 OF THE SALMON TROUT.

the young salmon by the name of salmon-trout; but it is evident that this is a fish of a different kind.



### Of the S M E L T.

**T**HIS fish is remarkable for its delicacy, and seldom exceeds six inches in length, though they are sometimes found much longer, particularly near Warrington, where they have been found of double the length. Its shape resembles that of a trout. The body is covered with scales, which will drop with the slightest touch. The belly and sides shine like silver, the back is dusky, and very small black spots may be observed on the head and back. The jaws are filled with teeth, and there are two in the tongue. The eyes are of the colour of silver, and the brain may be observed through the skull.

Smelts bear a very high price, as they are a favourite food, and are often sold in London at five or six shillings the hundred. They come into the Thames in the months of March and August; in the first of which they go up as high as Mortlake, but seldom get farther than Blackwall in the latter month. The smelt does not breed in ponds, though some of them have been sometimes found in those still waters where fishermen have washed the spawn from their nets.

If the spring be mild, such immense numbers of them assemble in the river Mersey, as to make the water appear of a greenish colour. All the boats and fishermen are employed to take them; and even boys catch them with cabbage-nets.

In

# OF THE SMELT. 39

In angling for this fish, the baits are a small part of the fish itself, some well-scoured gentles, earth-bobs, or a paste: but they are not very frequently caught by angling. Writers on this subject say that this fish smells like a violet: but that the vulgar opinion affirms it to smell like a cucumber. In this particular we must prefer the vulgar opinion; for surely nothing so much resembles the smell of a cucumber, as that of a smelt.

THESE are the fishing days in the month of May, which are the best for catching the smelt. The fishing is not so good in the month of June, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of July, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of August, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of September, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of October, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of November, as in the month of May. The fishing is not so good in the month of December, as in the month of May.

As the season of fishing, it may not be improper to give the list of the months in the year, according to the directions of CHARLES COTTON, Esq. who published in the year 1686, together with the year 1687, as have been made by the printer, and printed by John Widdowes, on this subject. Mr. Cotton confesses that few persons have himself been by fishing in the month of January; yet even in this month he has been successful in taking a few, but few days in the month of February, and only in the month of March, and in the month of April, and in the month of May, and in the month of June, and in the month of July, and in the month of August, and in the month of September, and in the month of October, and in the month of November, and in the month of December.

OF THE SMELT. E 2

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## FLY-FISHING.

**T**HE art of making a fly is so necessary to the fishing with success, that (as Sir John Hawkins observes) “he hardly deserves the name of an angler who cannot do it.” Though in fact, very good flies may be got at the fishing-tackle shops, provided proper directions be given for the making them.

As the foundation of fly-fishing, it may not be improper to give the list of flies for each month in the year, according to the directions of CHARLES COTTON, Esq; first published in the year 1676, together with such variations as have been made by later proficients, and published by later writers on this subject. Mr. Cotton confesses that few persons beside himself begin fly-fishing in the month of January; yet even in this month he has been successful in taking grayling. There are but few days in the month fit for the sport, and only an hour or two in the day, during a warm sun.

### J A N U A R Y.

There are no alterations made in Cotton's directions for this month, which we therefore give nearly in his own words;



1. A RED-BROWN, with wings of the male of a mallard almost white: the dubbing of the tail of a black long-coated cur, such as they commonly make muffs of; for the hair on the tail of such a dog dyes, and turns to a red-brown; but the hair of a smooth-coated dog of the same colour will not do, because it will not dye, but retains its natural colour.

2. The little BRIGHT DUN GNAT. This must be fished with having only one hair next the hook. It is made of a mixt dubbing of Martin's fur, and the white of a hare's scut, with a very white and small wing; and it is no matter how fine you fish, for nothing in this month will rise but a grayling, and of them I never, in this season, saw any taken with a fly of above a foot long: but of little ones, about the size of a smelt, you may take enough with the two flies above-mentioned.

## F E B R U A R Y.

1. The LITTLE RED BROWN. The dubbing of this must be somewhat blacker than that of last month, and warpt on with red silk.

2. A PLAIN HACKLE, or PALMER-FLY; to be made of black ostrich herl warped, or tied down to the dubbing with red silk, and the hackle of a red cock over the whole.

3. The LESSER HACKLE; which is made with a black body, a silver twist over it, and a red feather.

4. The GREAT HACKLE. The body of this must be black, and wrapped with a red feather of a capon untrimmed. We sometimes barb the hackle-feather all over; sometimes barb it only a little; and sometimes leave the whole length of the feather on the top, or back of the fly, which makes it swim better, and by which large fish are killed.

E 3

5. GOLD.

5. **GOLD TWIST HACKLE.** Ribbed with gold-twist, the body black, and a red feather over the whole. These hackles are taken from nine to eleven in the morning, and from one to three in the afternoon. They do great execution, and suit all waters, and any month in the year.

6. **The GREAT DUN.** This is made with bear's hair of a dun colour, and those wings of the grey feather of a mallard near his tail. This is deemed the best fly for this month, and is productive of great sport to the angler.

7. **The GREAT BLUE DUN.** The wings of the dark grey feather of a mallard: the dubbing of the bottom of bear's hair next to the roots, mixed with a small quantity of blue camlet.

8. **The DARK BROWN.** The wings of a grey drake's feather, and the dubbing of the brown hair from the flank of a brended cow.

In the use of the above hackles, the angler will recollect that some of them suit one water, and some another; and likewise pay a proper attention to the sky; for their size and colour is to be altered accordingly. In clear water a small hackle is best, and in deep-coloured water a larger.

### M A R C H.

The same flies are to be used in this month as in the preceding; exclusive of which we have,

1. **The LITTLE WHIRLING DUN,** which is made of the bottom of a squirrel's tail, and the wing of the grey feather of a drake.

2. **The BRIGHT BROWN,** made either of the down of a spaniel, or that of a cow's flank; with a grey wing.

3. **The WHITISH DUN,** The wings of this are made of the grey feather of the mallard, and the body of the roots of camel's hair.

4. The

4. The **THORN-TREE-FLY**; made of a perfect black, intermixed with eight or ten hairs of \*Isabella-coloured mohair. The body very small, and the wings of a bright mallard's feather. This fly is famous for its execution.

5. The **BLUE DUN**. The dubbing for this fly consists of the fine blue hair combed from the neck of a black greyhound. The wings should be very white, and from the tenth to the twenty-fourth of the month he is most certainly taken.

6. The little **BLACK-GNAT**: the dubbing either of the fur of a black water-dog, or the down of a young black water-coot: the wings made of the male of a mallard, as white as can be procured: the body very small, and the wings not to extend beyond it.

7. After the middle of this month use the **BRIGHT BROWN**, which continues in use till about the tenth of April. The dubbing for it is to be had out of a skinner's lime-pits, of the hair of an abortive calf, which will be turned to gold-colour by the strength of the lime. The feather of a brown hen is best for the wings.

## A P R I L.

The hackles and flies taken in March are the same as those in this month; but the browns must be lapt

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\* Sir John Hawkins, in his notes on Walton's and Cotton's angling, has this remark on the Isabella-coloured mohair. "The Archduke Albertus, who had married the Infanta Isabella, daughter of Philip the Second, King of Spain, with whom he had the Low Countries in dowry, in the year 1602, having determined to lay siege to Ostend, then in the possession of the heretics, his pious Princess, who attended him in that expedition, made a vow, that till it was taken she would never change her cloaths. Contrary to expectation, as the story says, it was three years before the place was reduced, in which time her Highness's linen had acquired the above-mentioned hue." N. B. This colour is whitish yellow, or buff-colour a little soiled.

with red silk, and the duns with yellow. In this month are likewise taken

1. The **SMALL BRIGHT BROWN**; which is made of spaniel's fur, with a light grey wing. This is taken in clear water, on a bright day.

2. The **DARK-BROWN**; the dubbing of the same colour, intermixed with violet-coloured camlet. The wing of the grey feather of a mallard.

3. From the sixth to the tenth of this month use the **VIOLET FLY**, which is made of a dark violet stuff, with the wings of the dark feather of a mallard.

4. The **WHIRLING-DUN**. This is made of the down of a fox cub, and ribbed about with yellow silk: the wings of the pale grey feather of a mallard. This fly is usually taken at noon, from the twelfth of the month to the end of it, and occasionally to the end of June.

5. The **YELLOW-DUN**. Dub with a small quantity of pale yellow crewel, mixed with fox-cub down from the tail, and warp with yellow: the wing of a palish starling's feather. This fly is taken from eight to eleven in the morning, and from two to four in the afternoon. It is a good fly for April and May.

6. The **HORSE-FLESH-FLY**. The dubbing of this is a blue mohair, with a pink-coloured and red tammy mixed; the wing light-coloured, and the head dark-brown. This fly is taken through the month, and kills best from two hours before sunset till night.

#### M A Y.

This month and the following are more favourable to the fly-angler than all others in the year; wherefore we shall be very particular in describing the flies proper to be used, and first speak of those kinds that are least in esteem.

1. The



1. **The TURKEY-FLY.** The dubbing ravelled out of some blue stuff, and lapped about with yellow silk: the wings of the feather of a grey mallard.

2. **The GREAT HACKLE, or Palmer-Fly;** the body yellow, ribbed with gold twist; the wings of a mallard's feather dyed yellow, with a red capon's hackle over the whole.

3. **The BLACK-FLY.** The wings of a grey mallard's feather, and the dubbing of the fur of a black spaniel.

4. **The LIGHT-BROWN** with a slender body; the dubbing twirled upon small red silk, and raised with the point of a needle, that the ribs or rows of silk may appear through: the grey feather of a mallard forms the wings.

5. **The LITTLE-DUN.** The dubbing of a bear's dun hair whirled upon yellow silk; the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

6. **The WHITE GNAT.** This is composed of a black head, and a pale wing.

7. **The PEACOCK-FLY;** the body of the whirl of a peacock's feather, with a red head, and the wings of the feather of a mallard.

8. **The COW-LADY,** a small fly: the wings of a red feather, or stripes of the red hackle of a cock; the body of a peacock's feather.

9. **The COW-DUNG FLY;** the dubbing a mixture of light-brown and yellow, and the wing the dark-grey feather of a mallard.

It is to be remarked that all the hackles and flies taken in April will be taken this month; only the flies must be smaller, and the hackles brighter.

We will now proceed to those flies which are most in esteem this month; viz.

1. **The DUN-CUT.** Dub with bear's-cub fur, and a little yellow and green crewel; warp with yellow or green; a large dun wing, and two horns at the

the head, made of the hair of a squirrel. This fly almost certainly kills.

2. The ARTIFICIAL GREEN DRAKE. This comes in about, or soon after the twentieth of the month, and is taken at all hours till near the end of June in stony rivers. Observe the following directions to make it. On a large hook dub with camel's hair, bright bear's hair, the soft down that is combed from a hog's bristles, and yellow camblet well intermixed; the body long, and ribbed about with green silk, or rather yellow silk waxed with green wax: the wisk of the tail of the long hair of fables, or fitchet; and the wings of the white-grey feather of a mallard dyed yellow.

3. The ARTIFICIAL STONE FLY. Make it of bear's dun hair, with a little brown and yellow camblet well mixed, but disposed in such a manner, that on the belly, and towards the tail underneath, the fly may be more yellow, than on any other part. Place two or three hairs of a black cat's beard on the top of the hook, in the arming, so as to be turned up when you warp on your dubbing, and to stand almost upright. Rib your fly with yellow silk; make the wings long and large, of the dark-grey feather of a mallard.

4. The BLACK-FLY. The body black, the whisk of an ostrich-feather, ribbed with silver twist, and the black hackle of a cock over all: this fly will kill, but is not to be mentioned with the two preceding.

5. The LITTLE YELLOW MAY-FLY. The shape of this is precisely the same as the green-drake, and of a remarkably bright yellow, which is made of a bright yellow camblet, and the wings of a white grey feather dyed yellow.

6. The CAMBLET FLY. This is shaped like a moth, and its wings are finely diapered or watered.

The

The artificial fly is made with dark brown shining camblet, ribbed over with a very small light green silk; the wings of the double grey feather of a mallard. It is a killing fly for small fish, and likewise for graylings.

## J U N E.

The green-drake and stone-fly are taken till about the twenty-fourth of this month: and the flies proper to the month are

1. The OWL-FLY, which is taken from the twelfth to the twenty-fourth of the month, late at night. Dub with the white of a weasel's tail, and let the wing be white grey.

2. The BARM-FLY. Dub with the fur of a yellow dun cat, and the grey wings of a wild mallard's feather.

3. The PURPLE-HACKLE, made with a purple body, whipt about with a red capon's feather.

4. The GOLD-TWIST-HACKLE with a purple body, whipt about with a red capon's feather.

5. The FLESH-FLY. For dubbing make use of a black spaniel's fur, and blue wool mixed; and let the wing be grey.

6. The LITTLE FLESH-FLY. Make the body of the whirl of a peacock's feather, and the wings of the grey feather of a drake.

7. The PEACOCK-FLY. The body and wing both made of the feather of the peacock.

8. The ANT-FLY. Dub with brown and red camblets mixed, and let the wing be light grey.

9. The BROWN-GNAT. Make the body very slender, with brown and violet camblet, well mixed, and the wing a whitish grey.

10. The LITTLE BLACK GNAT. The dubbing black mohair, and the wing a lightish grey.

11. The

11. **The GREEN GRASSHOPPER.** The dubbing of a mixture of green and yellow wool, ribbed over with green silk; and over the whole a red capon's feather.

12. **The LITTLE DUN GRASSHOPPER.** The body made of a dun camblet, and very slender, with a dun hackle at the top.

## J U L Y.

During this month all the small flies that are taken in June will be taken; and likewise the following:

1. **The ORANGE-FLY.** Dub with orange-coloured wool, and make the wings of the feather from a blackbird's wing.

2. **The LITTLE WHITE DUN.** The body should be made of white mohair, and the wings of the blue feather of the heron.

3. **The WASP-FLY.** Make this either of a dark-brown dubbing, or else the fur of a black cat's tail, ribbed about with yellow silk; and the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

4. **The BLACK HACKLE.** The body must be made of the whirl of a peacock's feather, and a black hackle feather on the top. There is likewise another, without wings, made of a peacock's whirl.

5. **The SHELL-FLY.** The dubbing of this fly must be made of yellow green Jerley wool, and a little white hog's hair mixed.

6. **The BLACK-BLUE-DUN.** The wings must be made of the feather of a blue pidgeon's wing. The dubbing is the fur of a black rabbit mixed with a little yellow.

## A U G U S T.

In this month are taken the same flies as in July; likewise

1. A



1. A second kind of ANT-FLY; the dubbing of the darkeſt brown hair of a cow, approaching to black, with a dark wing, and ſome red warp'd in for the tag of his tail. This fly is almoſt certain to kill.

2. The FERN-FLY; the dubbing of the fur of a hare's neck, which reſembles fern in colour, with a darkiſh grey feather of a mallard's wing. This fly is alſo a good killer.

3. The WHITE-HACKLE; the body compoſed of white mohair, and warp'd about with a white hackle feather.

4. A HARRY-LONG-LEGS. Made of lightiſh bear's hair, and a dunnish hackle; add a few hairs of light blue mohair, and a little fox-cub down; warp with light grey or pale blue ſilk, and make the head large. This fly is commonly taken in a cloudy, windy day. All the ſame browns and duns that are taken in the month of May, are likewiſe taken in this month.

## S E P T E M B E R.

1. The CAMEL BROWN; the dubbing pulled out of the ſine of a wall, whipped about with red ſilk, and the wing made of a darkiſh-grey mallard's feather.

2. A Fly to which no name is given, but thus made; the black hair of a badger's ſkin, mixed with the yellow ſoſteſt down of a ſanded hog.

Exclusive of the two above-mentioned, all the ſame flies are taken in September as in April.

## O C T O B E R.

The flies which ſerve for the month of March, are likewiſe proper for that of October.

F

NOVEM-

## N O V E M B E R.

The flies proper for November are the same as those which are taken in February.

## D E C E M B E R.

It is not a very frequent custom to angle with a fly either in this month or in January; but when the weather is very mild, it is sometimes done. In this case, a brown, that looks red in the hand, and yellowish betwixt your eye and the sun, will both raise and kill in a clear water, which is free from snow-broth.

It may be proper to remark, that among all the flies above-mentioned, none are so proper to kill a number, even of the largest fish, as the *drake* and *stone-fly*.

An ingenious writer on this subject says, "The reader may depend on this list of flies, and rest assured, that with some or other of this list of flies, especially with the palmers or hackles, the great dun, dark brown, early and late bright brown, the black gnat, yellow dun, great whirling dun, dun cut, green, and grey drake, camblet fly, cow-dung fly, little ant-fly, badger-fly, and fern-fly, he shall catch trout, grayling, chub, and dace, in any water in England or Wales; always remembering that in a strange water, he first tries the plain, gold, silver, and peacock hackle."

After the above list of COTTON'S FLIES, to which we have made some few necessary alterations, it may be proper to give the following CATALOGUE OF FLIES, as it is separated into three divisions, under the titles of

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M O D E R N

CATALOGUE OF FLIES.

N U M B E R I.

F E B R U A R Y.

1. **PEACOCK-HACKLE.** Peacock's herl alone, or interchanged with ostrich herl, warping red silk, red cock's hackle over all: it may be varied by a black cock's hackle and silver twist. Taken chiefly from nine to eleven in the morning, and from one to three in the afternoon. This and the several other hackles, described in the course of this work, being very tempting baits, should always be first tried when the angler comes to a strange river; and not changed till he has found out, and is certain, what particular fly is upon the water.

2. **RED-FLY;** is made of a drake's feather, and the body of a red hackle, and the red part of a squirrel's fur. He has four wings, which lie flat on his back.

M A R C H.

1. **ASH-COLOURED DUN.** Dub with the roots of a fox-cub's tail: warp with pale yellow silk: wing of the pale part of a starling's feather. This fly, which is also called the Violet Dun, and Blue Dun, is to be found on almost every river: it varies much in its colour, according to the season of the year. In March and September it is called, and that very properly, the Violet Dun, for it has often that hue; and therefore it is usual to mix the blue violet crewel

with the fox-cub down. In April it assumes a pale ash-colour, and in May is of a beautiful lemon-colour, both body and wings. In June and July it is blue-black, and from July it insensibly varies till it becomes of its primitive colour, violet dun, which it never fails to do by September.

2. **GREEN PEACOCK HACKLE.** Greenish herl of a peacock: warping green silk, a black hackle over all. Taken from eight to eleven in the morning.

3. **DARK BROWN.** Dub with the hair of a dark brown spaniel or calf, that looks ruddy by being exposed to wind and weather: warp with ruddy or chocolate-coloured silk. The wing of the darkish part of a starling's quill-feather. Taken chiefly from nine to eleven in the morning. The same fly is taken in September.

#### A P R I L,

1. **BLUE-DUN.** Dub with the fur of a water-rat, and warp with ash-colour: the wing of a coot's feather. Morning and afternoon.

2. **PEARL-COLOUR, or HERON-DUN.** Dub with the yellowish or ash-coloured herl of a heron; warp with ash-coloured silk: wing from the short feather of a heron, or from a coot's wing, of an ash-colour.

3. **SPIDER-FLY,** comes about the middle of April, if the spring be favourable. The wings are made of a woodcock's feather, that lies under the but-end of the wing; the body of lead-coloured silk, with a black cock's hackle wrapped twice or thrice round. The shape of the body the same as that of the ant-fly. In bright and warm days this fly appears, and comes out of beds of gravel by the water side, where, in such weather as above-mentioned, they may be found in clusters from the middle to the latter end of the month.

4. Cow-



4. COW-DUNG-FLY, comes on about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April; but it is not to be fished with unless it be a cold windy day. The wings should be made of the blue feather of a hen-tipped with yellow; to lie flat: make the body of a lemon-coloured mohair, with a yellow feather about it. The whole should look like the large horse ant-fly.

## M A Y.

1. The OAK-FLY. Some call this the Ash-Fly, and others the Cannon-Fly. The head, which is large, of an ash-colour; the upper part of the body greyish, with two or three hairs of bright-brown mixt, and a very little blue, and sometimes a hair or two of light green: the tail-part is greyish mixt with orange: the wing of a mottled brown feather of a woodcock, partridge, or brown hen; the hook No. 8 or 9. This is the fly which is seen so frequently in April, May, and June, on the body of the ash, oak, willow, or thorns, growing near the water, standing with its head downwards: it is an excellent fly, but difficult to imitate, being of many colours, unequally mixed. It takes chiefly in the morning; it does not seem to come from any cadis; for it never drops in great numbers on the water; and the wings are short, and lie flat on the back, like the blue-bottle, or large flesh-fly.

2. The ORANGE-TAWNEY, Orange-Brown, Camblet-Fly, Alder-Fly, Withy-Fly, or Bastard Cadis. Dub with dark-brown spaniel's hair, or calf's hair that shines, or barge-sail; warp with deep orange; black hackle under the wing. The wing of a darkish feather of a mallard or starling. Chiefly taken of a morning before the green-drake comes upon the water.

F 3.

3. SILVER-

3. **SILVER-TWIST-HACKLE.** Dub with the herl of an ostrich feather; warp with dark green, silver-twist, and black cock's hackle over all. Taken from nine till eleven, particularly on a showery day.

4. **LIGHT-FLAMING, or Spring-Brown.** Dub with light brown of a calf; warp with orange colour; wing of a pale grey mallard's feather. This is a good fly, and taken chiefly before sun-set in a warm evening.

5. **SOOTY-DUN.** Dub with black spaniel's fur, or the herl of an ostrich; warp with green; wing, the dark part of a land-rail or coot. Taken best in a showery day, and likewise in the months of April and June.

6. **The YELLOW MILLER, or Owl-Fly.** The body of a yellow marten's fur, or ostrich herl dyed buff-colour; wing of the ruddy feather of a young peacock's wing, or pale brown chicken. Taken from two till four in the morning, and from sun-set till ten at night.

7. **DEATH-DRAKE.** The body one herl of black ostrich, and two of peacock; silver-twist, black hackle: wing of the dark feather of a mallard, of a copper colour. Taken chiefly in an evening, when the may-fly is almost gone.

8. **HUZZARD.** Dub with pale lemon-coloured mohair, or ostrich feather dyed yellow: warp with yellow; gold-twist and yellow hackle over all. Wing of a very pale mallard's feather dyed of a lemon-colour, the wings large; and longer than the body, lying flat on the back. Taken in a blustering day, before the may-fly comes in. This fly is little known, but the most beautiful of the insect species that frequent the water. It is larger than the green-drake, of a beautiful lemon-colour, both body and wings, which are four in number, and lie close to its

its back. It is to be met with but in few rivers, and is deemed a great curiosity; and in those rivers that produce them, they appear in great numbers about the latter end of April; at which time, and afterwards, the trouts rise at them very eagerly: doubtless this is a true water-fly: it is supposed to be produced from very large cadis.

## J U N E.

1. CADIS-FLY, which proceeds from the cod-bait, begins with June, and is a large fly, having four wings of a pale yellow, and likewise a body of pale yellow, ribbed with dark brown. The wings are made of a yellow hen's feather: the body of a buff-coloured yellow fur, ribbed with dark brown silk, and a yellow hackle three times round. These flies are not all gone till the end of the first week in July; and are to be fished with at the clearing of the water, after it has been discoloured, when no other fly will do so well. While in the state of a grub, it is an admirable bait for fishing at the bottom.

2. SKY-COLOURED-BLUE-FLY, begins and ends with the month of June. It appears only in the evening of a very hot day. It is made of the feather of a light blue hen, with a yellowish gloss: the body is made of a light blue fur, mixed with a bright yellow, with a silver grizzled hackle over it. It may be used till the middle of July.

3. ORLE-FLY, comes down the beginning, and continues till the end of June, and is the best fly to fish with after the may-flies are gone. The wings of this fly are made of a dark-grizzled cock's hackle; the body of a peacock's herl, with very dark red silk. It has four wings, which should lie flat on the back as it swims down the water. This fly is to be fished with in the warmest weather; and may be successfully



fully used from ten in the morning till four in the afternoon, at which time the fish decline the orle-fly, and bite at the sky-coloured blue above-mentioned.

## J U L Y.

1. PISMIRE. The body, some few reeves of a cock pheasant's tail feather, or ruddy barge-sail, or brown carpet, or old bear's hair towards the roots, tanned with the weather: one peacock's herl may be twisted with it: warp with ruddy silk: wing, the light part of a starling's feather left longer than the body. This is a killing fly after an emmet-flight, but not before.

2. WILLOW-CRICKET, or small Peacock Fly. A herl of green peacock's feather; warp with green silk: wing, of a starling's feather longer than the body. A morning fly, especially for grayling, in rapid rivers.

3. MIDDLING BROWN. Made of calf's hair twisted upon pale yellow silk, for the silk to appear: wing, of a mallard's feather.

4. DARK-BROWN. Warp with red silk, with a deep orange tag at the tail: wing, of a mallard's feather.

## A U G U S T.

Through this month the Pismire is used; as likewise all the other flies of the month of July.

## S E P T E M B E R.

LARGE FETID LIGHT BROWN. The body of light calf or cow's hair, or seal's fur dyed of the colour: warp with ruddy or orange-coloured silk: wing, of a ruddy brown chicken, large and long. This fly is much upon Hackney river, and is much ruddier there than elsewhere. A killing fly in the morning.

MODERN



## M O D E R N.

## CATALOGUE OF FLIES.

## NUMBER II.

## J A N U A R Y.

1. **DARK-BLUE HERL.** The body, black rabbit's scut; black of a hare's scut: greenish peacock herl; warp with brown silk: wing, the light part of a fieldfare's feather.

2. **BLACK HACKLE.** Body, pale yellow silk, with a black cock's hackle turned about it.

3. **DUN HACKLE.** Body, dun-coloured silk, with a dun cock's hackle.

4. **SPRING BLACK.** Body, black wool of a sheep's face, with or without a greenish peacock's herl: warp with brown silk: wing, the grey feather of a mallard.

5. **SECOND SPRING BLACK.** Body, the very blackest part of the darkest hare's scut you can procure, with or without a greenish peacock's herl: warp with ash-coloured silk; wing, of a fieldfare's feather. This and the other spring-black are taken best in bright weather.

## F E B R U A R Y.

The flies directed to be used in January, are likewise proper for use in this month.

## M A R C H.

In this month the same flies are used as in January and February, and likewise the following:

1. The

1. The **TURKEY**, or **MARCH-FLY**. Body, brown foal's hair; tops of the wings of a woodcock, some ruddy, others grey, well mixed together: warp with pink and yellow, or pink and light-coloured brown silk, twisted together: wing, of the feather of a cock pheasant. This is thought to be the cob-fly, so much celebrated in Wales.

2. The **BROWN FLY**, or **Dun Drake**. This fly begins to come down about the middle of March, and continues till the middle of April. It is made of the feather of a partridge or pheasant; the body of a partridge's hackle, with the fur of a hare under it, ribbed with yellow silk. This fly is taken from eleven till two or three o'clock.

#### A P R I L.

1. **DUN**. Body, dunnest filmert, or marten's fur; Indian fox-dun; light dun fox-cub; coarse hair of the stump of a squirrel's tail, of a brightish brown, or a yellowish cast; warp with yellow silk; wing, of a light fieldfare's feather.

2. **PALE**, or **SKY-BLUE WATCHET**. It is a small fly, and appears on the water on a cold day. The body, fur of a water-rat, black part of a hare's scut, the pale roots cut off; a very little brown bear's hair: warp with pale brown, or orange-coloured silk: wing, of a hen blackbird.

3. **LIGHT BLUE**. Body, light fox-cub fur; a little light foal's hair; a little squirrel's fur that is light coloured; all these well mixed together; warp with yellow silk: wing, of a light fieldfare's feather.

4. **PLAIN HACKLE**. Body, black ostrich herl, with red or black cock's hackle over it; and in hot weather add gold twist.

5. **RED HACKLE**. Body, red silk and gold-twist, and a red cock's hackle till June. Afterwards use orange silk for the body. This is deemed an excellent

excellent fly; but it is to be observed that it is more properly the orange-fly. Its colour is like that of a Seville orange. Wings may be added, either of a hen or chicken, of an orange or ruddy cast; or a dull dark wing, of the softest feather of a rook's wing. It has four wings, two next the body, of a very dark grey colour, and two serving as a case over them, sometimes of a dirty blackish colour, and sometimes of an orange colour.

6. **YELLOW WATCHET.** Body, water-rat's fur, the blackest part of a hare's scut; greenish yellow crewel for feet; warp with green silk: wing, the lightest part of a blackbird's feather.

7. **BLACK CATERPILLAR FLY.** This comes about the middle of April, and appears till the middle of May. Wings, of a jay's feather, one part blue, and the other part black: body, of a feather out of the top of a plover, with a dark hackle over it. The body of this fly is of a fine shag like velvet, which the plover's feather makes admirably well. To be fished with in warm days, when it is also windy and cloudy; for then the flies grow weak for want of the sun, and fall, in great numbers, on the water.

8. **SAND-FLY.** Body, dark brown foal's hair, a little blue squirrel's fur, and the whitish yellow of the same; warp with yellow silk: wing, the light part of a fieldfare's feather.

9. **GREEN TAIL.** Body, dark part of a hare's scut, and darkest blue fur of an old fox: light part of a squirrel's tail, and a hair or two of the coarse brownish part of it for feet; warp with ash-coloured silk: wing, of a hen pheasant.

10. **KNOTTED GREY GNAT.** Body, darkest part of a hare's scut, dark brown foal's hair, dark fur of the black of an old fox; warp with grey silk: wing, the blue feather of a fieldfare.

M A Y.

## M A Y.

The above flies may be used in this month; and likewise the following:

1. **LITTLE IRON BLUE FLY.** This begins and ends with May; and they come in great numbers in cold or stormy days. The wing of this fly is made of a cormorant's feather that lies under the wing, in the same form as those of a goose: the body is made with the fur of a mole, or rather a water-rat's fur, ribbed with yellow silk, and a grizzle hackle wrapped twice or thrice round. The wings should stand upright, with a little forked tail. This fly is eagerly taken by the grayling.

2. **YELLOW SALLY FLY;** appears from the middle of May to the beginning of June. The wings are made of a yellow cock's hackle: it has four wings which lie flat: the body is made with yellow dubbing, mixed with dark brown fur, and a yellow hackle round it.

3. The **SHORN-FLY** comes in the middle of May, and continues about a month, and is frequently found in the mowing of grass: it has a husky wing of a dark brown colour, with fine clear blue wings underneath. It is a very killing fly till the may-fly comes in, though hitherto but little noticed by anglers. The wings of this fly are made of a jay's feather, taken out of the wing, mixed with a little black and blue; and the body is made of a flesh-coloured silk with a red hackle over it. When the water is in order, this fly is a certain killer.

4. **BLUE HERL.** Body, fox's fur, dark part of a hare's scut, greenish herl of a peacock, (if the weather is warm for the season, otherwise little or none of the greenish herl;) warp with brown silk; wings, of a starling's feather.

5. **DUN.**



5. **DUN.** Body, dunnish blue fur of an old fox, mixed with pale yellow, the ends of the hairs of an old fox almost red; some coarse hairs taken out of the tail, or brush; warp with yellow: wing, starling's feather.

6. **BLACK HERL.** Body, black herl of an ostrich, and ruddy herl of a peacock, twisted together; warp with brown silk: wing, the light feather of a fieldfare.

7. **PEACOCK HACKLE.** Body, peacock's ruddy herl; red cock's hackle; warp with red silk.

8. **PEWET, or LAPWING'S TOPPING.** Body, peacock's herl, and that of a lapwing's crown feather, twisted together; warp with red silk: wing, the red feather of a partridge's tail.

9. **ORANGE BROWN.** Body, orange-coloured wool, with bright brown bear's hair mixed; warp with orange silk: wing, of a starling's feather.

10. **LIGHT BLUE.** Body, light fur of an old fox, mixed with yellow pale crewel; warp with pale yellow silk: wing, light feather of a jay.

11. **RED HERL.** Body, two herls of a peacock, twisted together; warp with ruddy silk: wing, the red feather of a partridge's tail.

12. **STONE GNAT.** Body, the roots of the darkest part of a hare's scut, the top or ends being cut off; warp with ash-coloured silk; wing, a blackbird's feather.

## J U N E.

Through this month the fish will take the following flies of the last month: viz. the black-herl, red-herl, dun, stone-gnat, light-blue, orange-brown, peacock-hackle, and pewet's topping. They will likewise take the following:

1. The **WHITTERISH.** Body, the root-end of the white part of a hare's scut; light-grey foal's hair,

G

or

or camel's hair, towards the tail, the dark part of a hare's scut with some brown hairs mixed: peacock's herl for the head; warp with white silk: wing, the feather of a sea-mew.

2. **LIGHT-GREY.** Body, fur of the inner part of a rabbit's leg, the lightest of the dark part of a hare's scut: warp with ash-coloured silk: wings, light grey mallard's feather.

3. **BROWN NIGHT-FLY,** is made of the brown feather of a hen, and the body of the same colour. This is properly a moth, which flies by night only; and is to be used in a dark gloomy night after a warm day. In this fishing use a line about a yard longer than the rod, and put a couple of maggots at the point of the hook, which will be of great advantage to the smelling part. It will take fish both in streams and standing waters, and you may hear rise in as much perfection as if you were fishing by day. They will continue to bite till day-break, if the night be gloomy and cloudy; but if it be a moon-shining or star-light night, they will not stir at these flies, any more than they will at the day-flies in a bright day.

4. **WHITE NIGHT-FLY.** This fly is, in my opinion, preferable to the former. It is made of the white owl's feather, on account of the softness of it, upon a middle-sized worm-hook; the body of the same colour as the wings, and as big as a very large wheat-straw. It is in perfection about the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June; and if the natural fly be on the water during the night, the fish will not fail to bite at your artificial one.

## J U L Y.

The following flies, which are used in May and June, are likewise proper for use this month; viz. The peacock-hackle, black-herl, pewet's topping, and

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and red-herl. The whitterish and light-grey of last month may likewise be used; to which add

1. The **BROWN**, which is thus made: body, hair of a very light brown or reddish calf or spaniel, and light bear's hair mixed; warp with pale orange: wing, the feather of a land-rail.

2. **RED SPINNER**; begins with July, and ends about the middle of the month, and is useful only in the evenings of sultry days. The body is made of gold-twist, with a red hackle over it: wing, of a grey drake's feather, lightly tinged with a yellow gloss.

3. Large **BLACK ANT-FLY**. Body, of an ostrich's black feather, and a black cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the wing. Wing, of the lightest sky-coloured blue feather that can be procured, and of the greatest gloss: this fly is made in the same form as the following,

4. Large **RED ANT-FLY**. This, as well as the preceding, comes in about the middle of June, if the weather be hot, and both continue for a week or nine days. Take notice that these two ant-flies that come first, are the large horse ants. The wings of this red-fly are made of a feather out of the wing of a starling, of a dusky colour: the body of hog's down, dyed of an amber colour. It must be made very large at the tail, and small towards the wing; with a red cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the butt-end of the wing.

5. **BLUE GNAT**; begins with July, and is a good killer when the water is low and fine. The wings to be made of a light blue cock's hackle; the body, the blue fur of a fox, mixed with some yellow.

6. **WELSHMAN'S BUTTON**, or **Hazle-Fly**. It takes its name from its shape, which is as round as a button. It comes in towards the end of the month, and has an outer husky wing, and a small blue one

under it. These flies are found on hazle trees and fern bushes, and drop as soon as the bushes are touched. The body is made of the dark part of camel's hair, and the wing of the dark hackle feather of a pheasant.

### AUGUST.

The peacock hackle, black-herl, pewet's-top-ping, and red-herl, which are used in May, are likewise proper for this month; in which also are taken,

1. **THE BROWN ANT-FLY.** Body, bright brown bear's hair, much weather-beaten, almost of an orange-colour towards the tail, and therefore a few hairs of a light-brown or flame-coloured calf, or spaniel's hair, to be added in the tail-part. Warp with orange-coloured silk: wing, the light feather of a fieldfare or starling.

2. **BLACK ANT-FLY.** Body, darkest part of a hare's scut, and dark brown wool, or sheep's ruffet, equally mixed, and one single ruddy herl of a peacock, all twisted together; warp with copper-coloured silk: wing, a fieldfare's feather.

3. **GREY-FLY.** Body, light grey foal's hair, mixed with the dark part of a hare's scut; warp with grey silk: wing, of a hen-pheasant's feather.

4. **LITTLE RED and BLACK ANT-FLIES.** These come down the beginning of August, and are seen on the water from one to four in the afternoon. They are made of the same materials, and of the same shape as the large ones are; but are only about half the size.

5. **LITTLE WHIRLING-BLUE.** This comes down the beginning of the month, and continues about a fortnight. The wings are made of the blue feather of a sea-gull; and the body of the red part of a squirrel's fur, ribbed with yellow, and a red hackle

over



over it. This fly is to be used in the evenings of very warm days.

6. **LITTLE PALE-BLUE.** This comes down the beginning of August, and continues till the middle of September. It is greatly admired by the grayling, which is now in season, and affords great diversion to the angler. The wings of this fly are made of the lightest blue feather of a sea-swallow: the body of the bluest part of a fox's fur, with a very little yellow mohair mixed with it, ribbed with a straw-coloured silk, and a fine pale-blue hackle over it. This fly continues till the willow-fly comes, and afterwards till the weather grows cold.

7. **WILLOW-FLY.** This comes about the middle of the month, and continues till the dun-blue comes again. It has four wings, which lie flat on the back; the belly is of a dirty yellow, and the back of a dark brown. The wings are made of a dun-cock's hackle a little freckled; the body of a squirrel's fur, ribbed with yellow silk, and covered lightly with the same coloured hackle as the wings. This fly is chiefly to be used in cold stormy days; but in warm gloomy weather you must fish with the pale-blue, and these two flies last till the season for fly-fishing is at end.

## M O D E R N

## CATALOGUE OF FLIES.

## NUMBER III.

## F E B R U A R Y.

I. **PRIME-DUN.** Wings, of the feather got from the quill of a starling's wing; dubbing, of the down of a fox-cub, warped with ash-coloured silk. This fly is made very small; but there is another made of the same dubbing, considerably larger.

## M A R C H.

In this month the flies proper to February are likewise taken, as well as the following.

1. **PALM-FLY.** Dubbing, of the hair of a brown spaniel, from the outside of the ear; and a little sea-green wool mixed, warped with brown-coloured silk: wings, of the quill-feather of a starling.

2. **GREEN-TAIL.** Dubbing, of the brown hair or a spaniel, got on the outside of the ear, but a little in the end of the tail; must be all of sea-green wool without mixture: wings, as the preceding fly.

3. **MOORISH BROWN.** Dubbing of the wool of a black sheep; warped with red silk: wings, of the feather got from a partridge's wing.

## A P R I L.

I. **BRIGHT-BEAR.** Dubbing, of bright bear's hair; warped with sad cloth-coloured silk: wings, of the quill-feather of a starling. Some persons dub  
the

the body with yellow silk, which is the preferable method.

2. **YELLOW-DUN.** Dubbing, of yellow wool, and ash-coloured fox-cub down mixed together, dubbed with yellow silk: wings, of the feather of a starling's quill. Others dub it with dun bear's hair, and the yellow fur got from a marten's skin, mixed together, and with yellow silk: wings, of a starling's quill-feather.

You may likewise make two other flies; their bodies dubbed as the last; but in the one mingle fanded hog's down; and in the other, black hog's down: wings, of a starling's quill feather: and there is also taken an excellent fly, made of dun bear's hair, yellow marten's fur, fanded hog's down, and black hog's down, all mixed in equal proportions; warped with yellow silk: wings, of the feather of a starling's quill. The above-mentioned flies for April are very good, and will be taken all the spring and summer.

### M A Y.

1. **FERN-BUD.** This fly is found on fern; and the natural one is very good to dib with: it has a short thick body, of a very dull greenish colour, and two pair of wings, of which the uppermost are hard, and sometimes taken off; but the undermost diaphonous. It is dubbed with the herl of a peacock, and very sad green silk: wings, of the feather of a fieldfare's quill, got out of the wing.

2. **KNOP-FLY.** Dubbing, of the down of an otter-cub, and the herl of a peacock; warped with black silk: wings, of the light grey feather of a mallard.

3. **YELLOW MAY-FLY.** Dubbing, of yellow wool, mixed with yellow fur of a marten; warped with yellow silk: wings, of the lightest-coloured feather of a throstle.

4. **LITTLE**

4. **LITTLE DUN.** Dubbing, of an otter's fur; warped with ash-coloured silk: wings, of the quill-feather of a starling.

5. **THORN-FLY.** Dubbing, of black lamb's wool; warped with black silk: wings, of the light-grey feather of a mallard.

It is to be remarked, that wherever the feathers of mallards are directed to be used for wings, those of the wild, and not of the tame mallard, are intended.

### J U N E.

1. **MACKERIL.** Dubbing, of light brown camel's hair; warped with black silk: wings, of the feather of a red cock.

2. **SAND-FLY.** Dubbing, of the wool gotten off the flank of a black sheep, warped with black silk: wings, of the sad-coloured feather of a throstle-quill. Some persons make the body of the feather of a heron's neck.

3. **PURPLE-FLY.** Dubbing, of purple wool, and a little bear's hair mixed; sometimes no bear's hair at all: wings, of the quill-feather of a starling; warped with purple silk.

4. **BLACK MIDGE, or Gnat.** Dubbing, of the down of a mole; warped with black silk: wings, of a light-grey feather of a starling.

5. **GREY MIDGE, or Gnat.** Dubbing, of the down of a sad grey cat, or sad grey camel's hair; warped with grey silk: wings, of the grey feather of a mallard.

### J U L Y.

**BLUE-DUN.** Dubbing, of the down of a water-mouse, and the bluish dun of an old fox mixed together; warped with sad ash-coloured silk: wings, of the quill-feather of a starling.

### AUGUST.



## OF FLY-FISHING.

69

### AUGUST.

1. **THE PISMIRE FLY.** Dubbing, of bright brown bear's hair, warped with red silk: wings, of the saddest-coloured quill-feather of a starling. This is deemed a good fly.

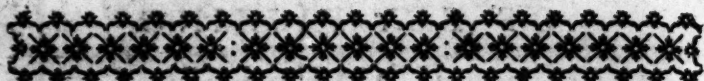
2. **BUSS BROWN.** Dubbing, of the light-brown hair of a cur; the head black: wings, of the feather of a red hen; warped with orange-coloured silk.

3. **HEARTH-FLY.** Dubbing, of the wool of an old black sheep, with some grey hairs in it, for the body and head: wings, of a light starling's quill-feather, warped on with black silk.

### SEPTEMBER.

**LITTLE BLUE-DUN.** Dubbing of the down of a mouse, for body and head; warped with sad ash-coloured silk: wings, of the quill feather of a sad-coloured starling.

*End of the Directions for FLY-FISHING.*



A

## COMPENDIOUS ACCOUNT

OF THE PRINCIPAL

## S E A - F I S H,

Their NATURE, QUALITIES, and the METHOD  
of CATCHING THEM, &c.



### *Of the* W H A L E.

**T**HIS enormous animal is the largest of all the aquatic tribe, and most of them are caught in the northern seas. Those on the coast of Guienne, and in the Mediterranean, are the smallest; those on the coast of America are from ninety to one hundred feet in length; while those found near Spitzberg are two hundred feet long.

Of whales there are two kinds, one of which bears the name of Cachelot, and has small flat teeth, which the genuine whale has not; but instead of teeth, has a sort of whiskers in the throat, which are a span broad, and fifteen-feet in length. They end in a kind of fringe, like the bristles of a hog, are set in the palate, and serve instead of teeth in a great degree. Whalebone is made of these whiskers, though it is generally thought that the fins of the fish supply this article. The above-mentioned whiskers are about five hundred in number, between each of which there is a considerable space.

The proper whale has no fins on the back, but two behind its eyes, covered with a thick black skin, variegated with strokes of white. On cutting these  
fins

fins there appear under them bones like the hand of a man, and between them sinews of remarkable stiffness. The whale steers himself with his fins.

The head of this fish is one third of its length: it has short hairs on the fore part of the lips: on the upper lip are black streaks mixed with brown; but the lips are otherwise smooth and black: they are of a serpentine form, and when shut, close within each other. The tail of this fish lies horizontally, and is from six to eight yards in breadth.

The tongue lies among the whiskers, and is large and white, except on the edges, which are spotted with black. The tongue is generally thrown away, as it is composed of soft spongy fat, that cannot easily be cut.

The hovel, or bump, is placed on the top of the head, before the eyes; and in this are two holes through which the whale blows the water with such force, that it resembles a hollow wind, which may be heard at three miles distance, when the fish is invisible through foggy weather. When the whale is wounded, he spouts out this water so fiercely, that it resembles the roaring of the sea during a storm.

The eyes of the whale are near the corner of his mouth, and are but little larger than those of an ox. The eye-lids are furnished with hair, resembling that of a man. The head is flat at the top, and slopes downwards to the under lip. The back and sides are red: the bottom of the belly is black in some of the fish, but in common it is white.

Whales make a fine appearance when the sun shines; for the waves rising and dashing against him, shine like silver. Some whales are marbled on the back and tail; and a white scar remains on whatever part they are wounded. Some whales are more black than others, being as deep as velvet; others of a coal-colour, and some not darker than a tench.

Though

Though the skin of this fish be remarkably slippery, yet a man may stand on him, as the flesh readily yields to the weight. The outward skin is remarkably thin, and, while the fish is warm, may be taken off with the hand; but it is of little or no value.

The young whales are bred from coition. How long the female goes with young, is uncertain; but it is imagined that they never have more than two at a time, as no greater number has ever been found when they have been opened.

The tail of the whale is eatable, and not unwholesome, as hath been experienced by those who have frequently fed on it. Spermaceti is produced from the brain of the male whale, which being melted over a slow fire, is thrown into moulds like those in which sugar is refined. When cool, the oil is drained off, and being then melted again, becomes white, and being cut into flakes, is prepared for use.

Whales are principally caught on the coast of Spitzberg, from near 77 to 80 degrees of latitude. The following is an account of the **DUTCH WHALE FISHERY**, as extracted, with slight alterations, from a modern writer; the following regulations being universally agreed to:

“ That in case a vessel be shipwrecked, and the  
 “ crew saved, the next vessel they meet shall take  
 “ them in, and the second vessel half of those from the  
 “ first: but no ship is obliged to take in any of the  
 “ cargo of the ship-wrecked vessel: but if any goods  
 “ taken out of such a vessel are absolutely relinquish-  
 “ ed, and another ship finds them, and takes them  
 “ up, the Captain shall be accountable to the owners  
 “ of the ship-wrecked vessel for one half, clear of  
 “ all expences. If the crew desert a ship-wrecked  
 “ vessel, they shall have no claim to any of the  
 “ effects saved, but the whole shall go to the pro-  
 “ prietor; but if they be present when effects are  
 saved,



“ saved, and assist therein, they shall have one fourth thereof. That if a person kill a fish on the ice, it shall be reputed his own so long as he leaves any person with it; but the minute he leaves it, it becomes the due of the first Captain that comes that way. But yet if the fish be fastened to an anchor, or a rope fastened to the shore, it shall remain to its first proprietor, though he leave it alone. That if any persons be wounded or maimed in the service, the Commissioners of the fishery are to procure him a reasonable satisfaction, to which the whole fleet shall contribute.

“ They likewise agree to attend prayers morning and evening, on pain of a forfeit at the discretion of the Captain; nor to get drunk, or draw their knives, on forfeiture of half their wages; nor fight, on forfeiture of the whole. They are not to lay wagers on the good or ill success of the fishing; nor buy nor sell with the condition of taking one or more fish, on the penalty of twenty-five florins. They are likewise to rest satisfied with the provisions allowed them; and they are never to light candle, fire, or match, without the Captain's leave, on the penalty above-mentioned.”

“ These regulations being read, the crew are called over, receive the usual gratuity in advance, and are promised a farther at their return, in proportion to the success of the voyage. The Captain on this occasion receives from 100 to 160 florins: the Pilot from 40 to 60: each Harpineer from 40 to 60; the other Officers from 26 to 36 florins: the old sailors 20, and the young ones 12.”

“ The fleet, which consists of vessels from two to three hundred tons, and from thirty-five men to forty-one, usually sets sail about the beginning of April, and takes its course by the islands of Iceland, from 60 to 61 degrees of latitude; after which,

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“ leaving them to the west, it steers northward  
 “ through 73, 74, and 75 degrees of latitude,  
 “ where they begin to find the ice.

“ It is through these prodigious heaps of ice,  
 “ which abound in those parts, that they first begin  
 “ to spy the whales; and there most of the vessels  
 “ make a stop in order for fishing. But as the fish  
 “ are larger and fatter the farther they go north, for  
 “ that reason some vessels will venture as far as 80,  
 “ or 82 degrees.

“ Each vessel of 300 tons has six shaloops, each  
 “ shaloon is allowed a harpineer, and five sailors to  
 “ row it: in each shaloon there are seven lines, of three  
 “ inches circumference, five of them in the fore part  
 “ of the vessel, and two behind. The five lines toge-  
 “ ther make six hundred fathom, and with the addi-  
 “ tion of the other two, the whole amounts to eight  
 “ hundred and fifty fathom. If the whale dives  
 “ deeper, or runs further under the ice, the line  
 “ must be cut, to prevent the loss of the boat.

“ The instrument with which the execution is  
 “ done, is a harping-iron, or javelin, five or six feet  
 “ long, pointed with steel in a triangular shape,  
 “ like the barb of an arrow.

“ The harpineer, standing at one end of the sloop,  
 “ as soon as he is at a proper distance from the  
 “ whale, flings the harping-iron, with all the force  
 “ he is master of, against the whale's back, and if  
 “ he is so lucky as to penetrate through the skin and  
 “ fat into the flesh, he lets go a string fastened to  
 “ the harping-iron, at the end whereof is a dry  
 “ gourd, which swimming on the water, discovers  
 “ whereabouts the whale is, who, as soon as he is  
 “ struck, plunges to the bottom. The gourd is  
 “ made use of when they have not line enough to  
 “ pursue the whale in its career. However, great  
 “ care is taken that they may have line enough, and  
 “ if

“ if the cargo of one shallop is not sufficient, they  
“ throw the end of the cord to another, and from  
“ thence to another, if there should be occasion.  
“ The cord, in running out so swiftly, would often  
“ take fire, if it was not kept wetting with a mop,  
“ or a swab.

“ As soon as the whale rises again for breath, the  
“ harpineer gives him a fresh wound with a lance,  
“ and so do the rest of the crew, as they have an op-  
“ portunity; for when he begins to faint with loss  
“ of blood, they can approach near him, and then  
“ they plunge their lances into various parts of his  
“ body, which soon dispatch him. When the car-  
“ case begins to float, they cut off the fins and tail,  
“ and tow him to the ship, where they fasten ropes  
“ to keep him from sinking; and when it is cold,  
“ they begin to cut it up.

“ In order to this, three or four men go down  
“ upon the whale, with irons upon their boots to  
“ keep them from slipping. They begin to open  
“ him on the side, and proceed downwards towards  
“ the belly, cutting off all the fat into pieces of three  
“ feet broad, and eight long: besides the fat on the  
“ sides, they frequently cut off that on the throat  
“ and the under lip, leaving the lean behind. They  
“ next proceed to the whalebone, which they cut  
“ off, with a hatchet made for that purpose, from  
“ the upper jaw of the fish. The fat and bone thus  
“ procured, they leave the carcase for the bears,  
“ who are very fond of it. As fast as the large  
“ pieces of fat are cut off, the rest of the crew are  
“ employed in slicing them smaller, and picking out  
“ the lean. When this is prepared, they stow it  
“ under deck till the fat of all the whale is on  
“ board; then cutting it still smaller, they put it  
“ in tubs in the hold, or bottom of the vessel, cram-

“ming them very full and close. This done, they  
 “sail for home, where the fat is to be boiled, and  
 “melted down into train oil.”



*Of the C O D.*

**T**HIS fish is likewise called the Keeling, and the small of the kind are denominated Codlings. The head is large, the belly prominent, and the whole fish thick and roundish. Its back is brown, the belly white, and it is covered with yellow spots. Its small scales adhere to the skin. It has large eyes, and a barb of an inch in length descends from the lower jaw. Its tongue is soft and round, and it has teeth in the palate and throat, as well as several rows of them in the jaws. It has a large stomach, in which herrings and other small fish are frequently found.

This fish is in great estimation, and is eaten salt as well as fresh: the head of a cod is deemed delicate eating. Cod are caught all round the coast of Great-Britain; and in different places almost all through the year.

The Banks of Newfoundland are the best places for cod-fishing. The principal bank is 100 miles broad, and 450 long. The fattest and largest fish are taken on the south side of the bank. The principal time for fishing is from the beginning of February to the end of April. Sometimes this fishery will end in six weeks, and sometimes last six months.

Some fishermen, on the approach of Lent, will sail with half a cargo, because then the markets are good; and return and get another lading before the season



season is over. Good fishermen will catch between three and four hundred in a day, though they take but one at a time, with a hook baited with the entrails of other cod. The weather being severe in that quarter, this fishing is very laborious. The captain and sailors are allowed a third of the cod they bring home sound, as their wages.

The following is the method of salting cod on board the ships: "They cut off the head, open the belly, and take out the guts: then the salter ranges them side by side at the bottom of the vessel, and head to tail, a fathom or two square. When one layer is compleat, he covers it with salt, and then lays on another, which he covers as before; and thus he disposes of all the fish caught in the same day, for care is taken not to mix those of different days together. After the cod has lain thus three or four days, they are removed into another part of the vessel, and salted afresh; and then it is sometimes suffered to lie till the vessel has its burden. Sometimes they are put into barrels, for the conveniency of carriage."

The smaller sort of cod are generally chosen for salting, because the salt penetrates them most effectually. There are many proper ports for drying the cod, within the limits of the fishery. When the ships arrive, all the vessels are unrigged, and a tent is provided on shore, covered with branches of fir, on which the sails are thrown, and furnished with a scaffold 20 feet broad, and 50 or 60 in length. The crew begin immediately to fish, and salt what they first catch on moveable benches; but it is on the scaffold that the chief salting is performed. The fish once salted, are laid in heaps to drain, on the galleries of the scaffold; and afterwards laid singly on hurdles, with the inside downwards, and are turned four times in a day and a night.

As they dry, they are laid in heaps of ten or a dozen, and the heaps daily encreased till of twice their original size. After this, two heaps are put together, and the fish turned daily; and when they are perfectly dry, they are laid together in immense heaps. The tripes, tongues, and rows of the fish are likewise salted and barrelled. These last are used to throw into the sea, to attract pilchards and other fish. Leather is dressed with the oil of the cod, which is also used for other purposes.

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### *Of the* T U R B O T.

**I**N the north of England this fish is called a *Bret*. It is seldom more than three feet long, and thirty inches broad. Its flesh is generally esteemed the most delicate of all salt-water fish, and it bears a high price in the markets of London; though it is often sold very cheap at Gravesend, when it cannot be brought fresh to London. It is disgraceful to this country that the London markets are supplied by Dutchmen, who catch them on our own coasts, and are computed to take above 30,000l. a year in this article. The turbot season commences with May, and ends at the beginning of August, during which period they are taken on the Dogger-Bank: but they are found on the coasts of Devonshire and Cornwall, from January to March.

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### *Of the* S O A L.

**T**HIS fish is said to be named from the soal of a shoe, which it resembles in shape. The upper part

part of it is ash-colour, and the lower white, and it is from the length of nine to fourteen inches. Its flesh is remarkably firm and solid, of a most agreeable taste, and deemed highly nutritive. These fish are principally caught on the coasts of Devonshire and Cornwall, and thence brought by land to London.



### *Of the* P L A I C E .

**T**HIS is a flat fish, often near a foot long, and seven inches in breadth. On the lower part he is whitish, but on the upper of a dirty olive-colour, having round spots of a vermillion cast. The flesh is soft, sweet, and wholesome; and many persons think it is as good as a soal. He is to be found on all our coasts, and is sold in the streets of London great part of the year.



### *Of the* D A B .

**I**T is about the size of a plaice, but somewhat thicker. Its scales are large, considering the smallness of the fish, and it feels rough if the fingers are drawn from the tail upwards. Its upper part is of a darkish olive, with a reddish cast; and it has spots of a dusky yellow. They are found in great abundance on our sea-coasts, but are not so generally esteemed as the plaice, though usually sold at about the same price.

## Of the TURTLE.

PERHAPS the more proper name of this fish is the TORTOISE, but it is generally known in England by that of Turtle. It is an amphibious animal, covered with a large oval shell, variegated with many colours. In America these fish are found of five feet in length, and four in breadth.

Of turtle there are four sorts; the *Trunk*, the *Loggerhead*, the *Hawk's-Bill*, and the *Green*; of which the last is abundantly the finest food. The fat is of a yellowish green, otherwise the flesh bears a great resemblance to beef. This animal is remarkably stupid, yet its sight is very quick. Its common food consists of moss, grass, and sea-weed.

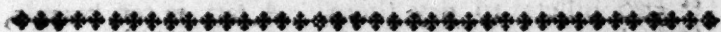
These fish are taken chiefly at the time of engendering, which is from March to May. They are then seen, the male on the back of the female, when two or three men approaching in a canoe, slip a noose round their necks, or one of the feet; and sometimes they seize them by the neck with their hands only; but the female frequently escapes. They are sometimes caught by throwing a spear which sticks in the shell of the turtle, which is drawn out by a rope fastened to the spear. The turtle take the land from the first moon in April, to that in August, during which period they lay their eggs, and in one season will lay several hundreds. The she turtle, on the night preceding her laying, views the place, goes once round it, and returns to the sea. On the following evening, towards sun-set, she approaches the land, and looks round her, and if she sees any person, seeks another place: if not, she comes on shore, digs a hole in the sand with her fore feet, about a foot broad, and eighteen inches deep, somewhat above the flowing of the tide. She then



then lays 80 or 90 round eggs, of the size of a hen's egg, covered with a tough skin. These she carefully covers up; lays again at the end of fifteen days, and for the last time at the end of another fifteen.

The heat of the sand hatches the eggs in about twenty-five days, when the young turtles run immediately to the sea. Those which happen to be caught, are fried whole, and are said to be exquisite food. The grown turtle are taken in the evening by being thrown on their backs, and drawn above high-water mark, where they are left till the following day.

Near some of the American Islands there are green plots at the bottom of the shallow sea, and on these, in fine weather, and smooth water, the turtle may be seen creeping. After having fed plentifully, they proceed to the mouths of rivers, where they enjoy fresh water and air, and then return to their former situation. A common sized turtle is about 200 pounds weight, and its eggs near 300. The latter will keep a considerable time; and the seamen generally salt the flesh. The shell of the turtle is moulded into different forms, according to the pleasure of the artist.



### *Of the* H E R R I N G.

**T**HIS fish is generally from nine to twelve inches long. They reside chiefly in the northern seas, between the north of Scotland, Denmark, and Norway, from whence they come in shoals to the British channel. The Dutch employ annually a hundred vessels, called busses, in the herring-fishery, which commences about the middle of June. An idea is formed

formed where the herrings lie, by the hovering of the sea-birds, who constantly pursue them in hope of prey.

Of herrings there are six sorts: 1. The *fat-herring*; which is larger and thicker than all the rest. 2. The *meat-herring*; which is large, but not so fat as the other. 3. The *night-herring*, which is of a middle size. 4. The *pluck*, which is one that has been damaged by the nets. 5. The *shotten*, which is one that has lost its milt or spawn; and 6. The *copsben*, which has lost its head by accident.

Herrings are cured in the following manner:

“ Being put into a tub with brine or salt, they lay  
 “ 24 hours; they are then put into wicker baskets and washed; then spitted on small wooden  
 “ spits, and hung up in a chimney built for that  
 “ purpose, at such distances that the smoke may  
 “ have free access to them all. When they have  
 “ filled these places, which will hold ten or twelve  
 “ thousand, they kindle the billets which are laid on  
 “ the floor, in order to dry them: this done, they  
 “ shut the doors, all other air-holes being stopp’d before, and immediately the place is filled with  
 “ smoke. This is repeated every quarter of an hour,  
 “ insomuch that a single last of herrings requires  
 “ 500 billets to dry them. A last is ten barrels,  
 “ each barrel containing near a thousand herrings.  
 “ These, thus prepared and dried, are called red-herrings.”

Pickled herrings are prepared by the Dutch, who gut and wash them as soon as catched; then put them for 15 hours into strong brine, made of water and sea salt. They then drain them, and place them in barrels, with a layer of salt at the top, and one at the bottom. This being done, the barrel is carefully stopp’d.

Of

*Of the* PILCHARD.

**T**HIS fish, which is thicker than a herring, seldom exceeds the length of nine inches. Its belly and sides are of a silver colour, and the back a green, approaching to blue. Its mouth is wide, and without teeth. Its eyes are of a silver-colour, with a cast of red. It has black spots near the upper corner of the gills; and some of them have like spots from thence towards the tail. In other respects it is much like a herring. It is very healthy food, of good taste, and more firm and palatable than a herring.

These fish are caught on the coasts of Cornwall and Devonshire, from June to September, and sometimes even at Christmas on the Cornish coast. They are a fish of passage, and swim in shoals like herrings and anchovies. They croud about a boat that carries a light in the night, by which they are easily taken.

Men sit watching on the tops of mountains in Cornwall and Devonshire, for the coming of shoals of pilchards, which is known in the night by the shining of the water, and in the day by its appearing dark. Signals are given by these men, how to manage the nets, by which above 100,000 pilchards are sometimes taken at a draught.

Pilchards are placed in layers, in warehouses, to the height of near six feet, salt being strewed between each layer. Having remained about eighteen days in this manner, wooden spits are thrust through their gills, and being twice washed, they are put into barrels, and pressed down with heavy weights, by which great quantities of oil are obtained. The fish are then barrell'd up, and sold to the merchants.

*Of the S H A R K.*

**T**HIS is a most devouring animal, and frequently bites off the limbs of persons who by accident fall into the sea. The mouth of this fish, which is enormously large, is placed under the eyes, so that he turns on his back to seize his prey. His teeth, which are very sharp, are 144 in number, placed triangularly in six rows, three in the upper, and three in the under jaw. The throat of this fish is wide, and its stomach very capacious. They are exceeding fond of human flesh, and three or four of them will join to tear in pieces the dead body of a Guinea slave which is thrown over-board. They are taken with a piece of salt-beef put on an iron-hook, and drawn on board by a rope fastened to the hook. Physicians say the flesh, which is white, is not fit to eat; but English sailors have eaten of it without being hurt by it. These fish are to be found in all parts of the sea. Some authors report that sharks have been seen of 4000 pounds weight, and that men have been found whole in their bodies.

*Of the P I L O T - F I S H.*

**T**HIS fish is so called from his attending on the shark, and never being seen out of his company. He commonly swims before him, but will play about the shark, which has never been known to hurt him. The pilot-fish is about the size of a whiting, he is deemed exquisite fine food, and the common method of taking him is by striking him with a fizgig.

*Of*



*Of the D O R E E.*

**T**HE head and eyes of this fish are large, and the mouth uncommonly wide. He is broad and flat, and of almost equal thickness in all parts. His shape resembles that of a plaice, but he should not be classed among the flat-fish, because he swims in an erect position. His breadth is from seven to eight inches, and his length about eighteen. He is taken on the coasts of Cornwall, and sometimes, though seldom, brought to London, where he sells at an enormous price. The connoisseurs in fish prefer the taste of the doree even to that of the turbot.

*Of the H A D D O C K.*

**T**HIS fish is covered with small scales; its back is blackish, and on its middle, on each side, is a large black spot. It has a barb on the lower jaw, its tail is forked, and it bears a considerable resemblance to a cod. It is of the middle size between the cod and the whiting. It is sold in common in the markets and streets of London; is rather a coarse fish, and is principally purchased by the poorer people.

*Of the M A C K E R E L.*

**T**HESE fish are found in immense shoals on our coasts. In April they enter the English channel,

nel, and proceeding through the straits of Dover, are found, in the month of June, on the coasts of Suffex and Cornwall. This fish is often angled for from a vessel lying at anchor. The bait is a piece of herring on a strong hook: but a piece of other fish, or even a bait of scarlet cloth will answer the end; for they bite with the utmost eagerness; and several hooks are frequently used at once.

They are thus fished for with nets on the coast of the West of England. "One man fixes a pole in-  
"to the sand near the sea, to which he makes fast  
"one end of a long net. Another takes the other  
"end of the net in his boat, and rows round as far  
"as the length of the net will permit, and then back  
"towards the shore: when his boat turns round, he  
"steps into the water, and taking the cord of the  
"net with him, drags the net towards the shore:  
"then, upon a signal given, both the men draw the  
"net out of the sea, and by this method often catch  
"three or four hundred fish, which are immediately  
"carried away by horses."

A mackerel cannot be eaten too soon after it is taken out of the water; yet they are often exceeding good after bringing to London, where they are eaten in amazing numbers. This fish is from twelve to eighteen inches in length, and is remarkable for its beauty; but is so generally known as not to need a description. They are of a voracious nature, and small fish are frequently found in their bellies.

Mackerel are pickled either by opening them, and cramming their bellies with salt; or by putting them into tubs of brine made of fresh water and salt. They are deemed a good relish when cold, after being stewed in vinegar.



to the root of the tail, as from one side to the other; so that it may be deemed broader than it is long, if there were not an impropriety in such a description.



*Of the* WHITING.

**T**HIS fish seldom exceeds twelve inches in length; but is generally esteemed for the tenderness and delicacy of its taste. It is sometimes dried, after the guts are taken out, and, in this state, is not deemed bad food.

Whitings are frequently fished for from a boat or smack, and as they bite freely, it is easy to catch them. The sea-gulls hovering over the place where the whitings lie, and often dipping in the water, afford a proper direction where to fish for them. Off Portsmouth they are frequently caught by using smelts as baits, or bits of herring, a muscle, a lob-worm, or a marsh-worm. The line is fastened to the inside of the boat, and fish-drawn up almost at pleasure.



*Of the* M A I D.

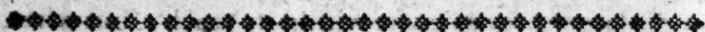
**T**HIS fish is not deemed so good eating as the skate, to which it bears some resemblance, though it differs from it in its abounding with prickles, which have their root in round hard substances, which lie hid within the flesh; whereas there are no prickles on the skate. Writers affirm that the maid is a young thornback.

Of





head, which is deemed of a poisonous nature; and when a fisherman is wounded with it, a swelling and intense pain ensue, which subside at the end of four or five hours. The flesh of this fish is firm, and of a pleasant taste; and they are sometimes found eighteen inches in length.



### *Of the* SURMULLET.

**T**HIS fish was formerly so scarce as to sell for its weight. It is now brought to London by land carriage from Suffex, Cornwall, and Devonshire; but it is still deemed a great rarity. Its colour is a dusky yellow; its length from six to nine inches: its body thick; but gradually decreasing to the tail. It has large scales, which are easily taken off. In the Mediterranean sea they are found in great abundance.



### *Of the* LUMP.

**I**T likewise bears the name of the Sea-owl. It is thick and ugly, and from twelve to eighteen inches in length. It has no scales, but there are black sharp tubercles on all parts of its skin. Its back is narrow, and its belly broad and red. Its flesh is not much admired, though it is often sold in our markets.

*Of*

*Of the* L I N G.

**O**N its being first caught, this fish is deemed a most exquisite dish; and when salted, is in higher estimation than any other salt-fish. It is caught from Easter to Midsummer on the north-east coast of England; and from Christmas till Michaelmas on the north-east of Ireland. Its body is long and round, and covered with small scales, which adhere to it very closely. Some of them are of a grey or ash-colour on the back and sides, and others of an olive-colour.



*Of the* TUNNY-FISH.

**I**T is thick, long and round; but remarkably small towards the tail. The back is of a dark colour, and they have been catch'd of above the weight of a hundred pounds. These fish swim in shoals, and range to very distant parts of the sea; for they are taken on the coast of Cornwall, with their stomachs filled with pilchards, and are also found in the Mediterranean. It is generally thought that they leave their spawn in the Euxine sea.

The following is a description which a modern writer has given of the method of catching them.

"The time of fishing begins in September. They

"are caught by a contrivance made of small cane,

“ which the French call *madrague*: some of these

"are said to be a mile in compass. They are divided

" into several partitions, and the fish having entered

"the large ones, are driven from thence into the

“smaller; for they are like sheep, if one leads the

"way, all the rest will follow. The inmost parti-

“tion

“tion of all is of a closer contexture than the rest;  
 “and it is floored as it were with a net. When  
 “they take out the fish, they draw it so near the  
 “shore, that the bottom may be within five feet of  
 “the surface of the water, and then the fishermen  
 “leap into it as into a fish-pond: they lay hold of  
 “the fish by the smaller part of their tails, and  
 “throw them into the boats, where they immedi-  
 “ately die.”

The fish are then hung up in the air, their heads cut off, their bodies cut in slices, broiled on grid-irons, and fried with oil-olive. This being done, they are seasoned with pepper, salt, cloves, and bay-leaves; then barrellled with fresh oil-olive and vinegar, and sent to all parts of Europe. The taste of this fish resembles that of veal, its flesh is firm, and its colour white.



### *Of the* S P R A T.

**T**HE resemblance between this fish and the herring is so great, that it has been concluded that there is no other difference between them than what arises from their age. They are taken in amazing abundance, sold at low rates, and are so common, as not to need a particular description.

T H E E N D.



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